RECREATION

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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Softball
By Arthur Noren

An April Shower

Table Tennis vs. Ping-Pong
By Maxwell Tasgal

School Facilities for Recreation?

By H. Clifton Hutchins

Model Railroading in the Recreation Program
By H. R. Howard

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RECREATION

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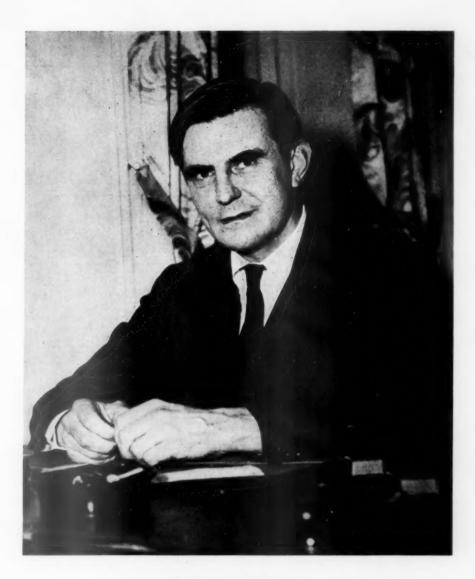
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John G. Winant

The ranking officer of the National Recreation Association, Hon. John G. Winant, has been chosen Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Thousands of recreation workers rejoice at his appointment. John G. Winant, even as Joseph Lee, Dr. John H. Finley and other leaders in the Association, has cared deeply what happens to every man and every woman in daily life. Governor Winant for the last fourteen years found himself very much at home in the recreation movement. Its desire to bring strength and joy of living to all was his own. The national recreation movement has belonged to him in a very real sense.

Howard Braucher



THE FRANK H. BALL PLAYGROUND

The Frank H. Ball Playground

WHERE a tin can covered hill once marred the landscape
of West Fresno, now

hundreds of happy youngsters and oldsters of every nationality on earth enjoy recreation of every type on one of the biggest little playgrounds in America, 420 feet by 320 feet, to be exact.

The idea of development of traditional recreation of all countries has long held sway in Fresno, and for over twentyfive years boys and girls have grown up together enjoying the

happy pleasant things that each nationality brought to build up the happiest of all lands.

During all this time, not just during war time, Americanization has been the Number One ideal of Fresno's recreation system; other ideals are social benefit, moral uplift, civic pride, health and good sportsmanship. Traditional recreation, with its ideals, has done much to cement a regard of friendship and understanding for this cosmopolitan city that nothing else could have accomplished so well.

The story of the transformation of a block of dirty hillside into a play area reads like a fairy tale come true. It all started when Frank H. Ball bequested to the city of Fresno \$10,000 for playground purposes. The will could have been broken, because it was made within three days of Mr. Ball's death, but Mrs. Bessie Ball rejected without hesitation any suggestion that such action be taken.

As the ideal spot for a playground in West Fresno was being sold off in lots, and the ten thousand dollar bequest was tied up in the estate,

the Superintendent of Recreation went to the City Commission and persuaded them to loan his department ten thousand dollars for the purpose of buying the desired site. The lots already sold, as well as the remainder of the block, were bought.

No sooner had the ground

An unsightly hillside is transformed into a block of happiness and beauty

By RAYMOND L. QUIGLEY Superintendent of Recreation

A block of play areas developed according to a carefully worked out plan is providing Fresno, California, with a leisure-time program permeated with the best of traditional recreation from all parts of the world, concentrated on the making of happy citizens.

been purchased than a border of trees and shrubs was set out, and children's apparatus and ball

grounds laid out. Next, eight hundred children of the neighborhood were invited to dedicate the ground. A California Redwood Big Tree, (Sequoia Gigantica), was planted by the children, and every child put some dirt around the roots.

This happened on Burbank Day, and it was explained that Burbank's achievements were just as important in their way

as those of Ford, Fouch or Fulton. The children were also told that the planting of the big tree was an event of much importance, as it would shelter generation after generation of children at play on the playground, and by the time all of those present had gone on to the great beyond, the tree would still be just a mere sapling in its life span of perhaps three thousand years. The playground, it was pointed out, had no fence, and in order that the playground might become beautiful, every child was appointed a policeman to see that the older people did not run over the trees and shrubs, or break off the shrub berries.

The children listened, took part in a program, and went away. On the next day any misgivings as to the attitude of the children toward the care of the trees and shrubs were dispelled when the Superintendent of Recreation was requested to come to the F. H. Ball playground to accept a gift for the department. Happy children enthusiastically presented a "cedrus deodara" to be planted as a playground living Christmas Tree. To this day it is not safe to injure the trees and shrubs on this

ground, for a child policeman appears instantly.

Mrs. Bessie Ball often visited the Frank H. Ball playground in her car. She saw the little children playing in their corner, the big girls over in another portion of the ground, and the boys

(Continued on page 754)

Located on this block playground which measures 420' x 320' are: a small children's playground with apparatus; baseball or football grounds used at night as softball diamonds; bleachers; hard-surfaced tennis courts; basketball and volleyball courts; a swimming pool with dressing rooms and a shower building; a large all-purpose recreation building; and trees, shrubs and landscaping.

Gardening as a Means of Self-Expression

war, gardening undoubtedly will receive added stimulus as the best available means for man

to escape from his worldly cares. Ever since man left the Garden of Eden he has seemingly been desperately trying to build his own Eden with varying degrees of success. The economic worth of a garden is too well known to need any stressing, even in times of war, when today's food surplus may become tomorrow's war rations.

Already apparent is a wave of realization of the value of a home and garden. Retail store records in large cities make clear that during the last Christmas season, with the English people losing their homes by the thousands due to bombs, Americans suddenly became home conscious. From a nation of almost nomads given to running about the countryside, Mr. and Mrs. America

began to purchase items for the home and garden. Perfumes and pearls, trailers and cruises were forgotten, and in their stead lamps, furniture both for indoors and out, garden equipment, seeds and other items having to do with comfortable living were piled on

delivery trucks, in express offices and in the mails on their way as gifts from friends who remembered not only the holiday season but something more important—the worth of a home and a garden.

All of us seek a means of self-expression with all too few ever achieving that outlet for the human soul. Gardening is that means which everyone with a patch of soil can utilize to blow off the steam accumulated in a world beset by care. To grow one's own flowers or vegetables or any other form of plant life is a form of recreation calling for no other restrictions

By J. W. JOHNSTON Horticultural Editor New York Herald Tribune

felt that the only danger from too
much direction of the arrangement
of plants and flowers, either indoors or out, is
the danger of regimented thinking that might
eliminate the most precious element in gardening—the opportunity for self-expression. There

than that imposed by one's own

good taste. This writer has always

is no apparent danger in this direction, for the best landscape architects and the experts on flower arrangement insist that in all these activities the result must, in some measure, express the

individuality of the gardener.

The tremendous growth of the junior interest in gardening holds much promise for its future in this country. We are now raising thousands of eager girls and boys with a developed appreciation of plant material before they reach the age of twenty-one. This, undoubtedly, will result in

their exercising a real influence on gardening for both pleasure and profit. Aside from this fact, the gains in healthy bodies cannot be measured, for one cannot witness a group of healthy, happy young gardeners just off the sidewalks of any city street or work-

> ing in a community garden in some beautiful suburb without feeling that in their hands the future of the country will be safe. Its counterpart in the rural districts is to be found in the 4-H clubs whose work and achievement passes beyond human belief. To all of this youth will fall the task of carrying on the advancement of gardeningan activity that has resulted in the increased culture and well-being of every country where man has congregated in communities. I feel this future is in safe hands, provided the work continues. Nothing should be permitted to stop it.

"It is fun to build a garden. Gardening is creative, and one of the greatest satisfactions in life is to look upon something which you yourself have brought into being and to find it good."—Edwin L. Howard.



Courtesy Cleveland, Ohio, Board of Education

School Facilities for Recreation?

NE INSISTENT CHALLENGE to public school administration is this question: shall school facilities be made available for community use outside of school hours. The challenger is public recreation, young and vigorous newcomer among the public services.

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Public schools have existed in substantially their present form for a century or more. Because they meet a generally recognized need, schools are found everywhere; with some notable exceptions, most of the children in this country can secure eleven or twelve years of school opportunity without going very far from home. School facilities in most communities are accessible, reasonably adequate and fairly well adapted to the requirements of the school program. Furthermore, because of their adequacy and accessibility they are well adapted to many requirements of the community recreation program.

Public recreation has grown to its present stature among the services of government during the present century. Its acceptance as a public service is simply a response to needs arising from such social changes as the urbanization, mechanization and centralization of our economy.

The progress of recreation in different parts of the country and in different places within the same area has been uneven. In spite of its youthfulness, recreation has progressed far enough to evolve certain distinctive methods and procedures. It has literally taken over its personnel from other pursuits and re-educated them. It has made good use of hand-me-downs in the way of facilities and equipment. But nearly everywhere its further progress is hampered by the unavailability of facilities that are accessible, adequate and adapted to the needs of community recreation.

A Question of Policy

With one public agency having facilities that another needs and might well use, a question of public policy arises. Shall public school facilities, typically used only by children during half the usable hours of each day, be made available to all the people for recreation when such use is not inconsistent with the primary purposes of schools?

Manifestly this is not a simple question to answer. If it were the solutions already found by

By H. CLIFTON HUTCHINS
Professor of Education
Willamette University

"Shall school facilities be made available for community use outside of school hours?" Dr. Hutchins answers this question in no uncertain terms: "No school seeking to render a vital community service can afford not to open its doors and playfields for the use of all the people."

numerous individual communities might be generally acceptable to others. The question itself is complicated by local traditions and personalities, by the extent of local financial resources, by the placement of administrative responsibility for the local recreation program, and by numerous subordinate problems any one of which could be important enough to ruin the most carefully prepared plan of cooperation.

Faced with this question, many a school official is likely to make the laconic reply: "Why?" Perhaps this dubious attitude is not without justification. The school administrator is employed to discharge a responsibility which by statute and tradition consists of providing specified types of instruction to children of designated ages for a minimum number of days each year. Usually he is forced to utilize every resource in order to secure enough state and local monies to carry on this program with a decently paid staff. He has fought to obtain suitable land and striven to erect buildings that appropriately reflect the esteem in which education is held by his community. Then comes a request from a non-school agency which, if granted, would involve the use of school buildings and grounds, would probably increase the school budget, and would certainly upset any traditional ideas in the community as to what schools are for. Why should he approve?

Obviously an attitude such as that described arises from a misconception of the function of education and of the agencies through which education is obtained. The distinctive features of education, of education-through-the-school and of

recreation are highly important. Not only these forces but their interrelationships need to be examined before a final answer can be given to the fundamental question under consideration.

The Nature of Education

Education is a process of growth. It goes on within the organism as the result of forces that may be called maturation. It goes on likewise as a result of forces external to the organism that may be called experience. The biological growth or education that results from these influences proceeds in "a severely regimented sequence" with considerable latitude as to rate. One stage merges imperceptibly into another, each change bringing reorganization of physical, mental and emotional patterns within the individual.

To a considerable degree education in this biological sense is nurtured by the home during the first years of life, although many other environmental influences have their effect. Play and learning are intermingled during this period; whether the two are separate, and the extent to which each one influences the other, have never been determined. Both are necessary in the early development of the normal child.

Sooner or later the school becomes a major environmental factor. The child goes to school because it is the device created by society to acquaint him efficiently with the past experience of the race; it renders further benefits in modern society by offering experiences that most homes would find it impossible to give. The child's education thus becomes institutionalized. Through the school his experiences are selected from among the vast number that might conceivably be enjoyed. Furthermore these experiences are directed toward a general goal. By virtue of this selection and direction of experiences, education-throughthe-school can be distinguished from the broader concept of education.

Recreation Is Education

The impulse to play exists in every child from the earliest years. It is the center or core of the young child's experience, serving, oftentimes, as the medium for learning. The nursery school and kindergarten utilize this natural tendency to play in guiding the acquisition of knowledge and the formation of habits, skills and attitudes in the young child. In later years an undetermined but probably significant amount of useful learning has its origin in play. In brief, play is an important

part of the growth process; it is one kind of education.

Play, or recreation as it is often called, may provide educational values when enjoyed either as a purely individual matter or with others in a group. To a degree, recreation in both of these manifestations has assumed certain institutional characteristics similar to those of the school. Where recreation is organized as a public service it usually involves leadership and the use of facilities; likewise there is usually a selection and direction of experiences in recreation just as in the school.

But even though there is similarity between the characteristics of recreational experience and school experience the two are not alike. Perhaps the greatest difference lies in the informality of recreation as contrasted with the formality of the school. School experience is compulsory, highly organized, well-disciplined and progressive. Recreation experience may have none of these attributes: participation is wholly voluntary; anyone may participate according to his interests, subject only to self-discipline or that imposed by the social group; progress from one stage of learning to another is purely an individual matter.

Manifestly, however, both school experiences and recreation experiences are educational. For any individual the immediate aims of the two services may differ; their methods may be different, their personnel entirely separate. Nevertheless, both school and recreation center are necessary agencies in the education of the individual. Both are means to an end and the end is the same for both, namely, the development of an educated person. Each supplements the other's efforts in reaching toward this ultimate goal.

Whole Population Is Served

* As school services and recreation services develop from year to year both are coming to serve an ever increasing proportion of the whole population. In any particular community today there may be little evidence of this trend. Nevertheless, it appears that such a development is taking place throughout the country as a whole.

Beginning during the last century as a service for small children, public recreation now seeks to provide a balanced program for persons of all ages. The sand garden has developed into the play center for tiny tots. Playgrounds furnish a safe place for growing youngsters to play under competent supervision and direction. Playfields, swimming pools, gardens, nature trails, toboggan slides and the like provide opportunity for active participation in sports and athletics for everyone from childhood on up. Community centers with reading rooms, assembly halls, gymnasiums, arts and craft shops, and game rooms offer a wide variety of recreational opportunity to young and old alike. As more of these types of facilities are made available public recreation can literally make good its desire to offer a balanced leisure time program to persons of all ages.

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Traditionally the public schools have been institutions for the education of the young. During the early years of compulsory school attendance the age of beginning school was set at six years and the upper limit extended to the fourteenth or sixteenth year. Some went to school beyond these ages in order to finish high school and go to college. Except for those who proposed to enter the professions, or adult immigrants who were learning the English language and American customs, the schools were for children only. This traditional attitude has persisted until relatively recent decades.

Today many public schools are extending their services to persons both above and below the ages of legally required attendance. At the lower extreme a substantial number of communities have added kindergartens for children four and five years of age; a few even provide a year or two of nursery school for younger children. At the other extreme most youth now go to high school and a substantial proportion of them graduate. Because of the difficulty in finding jobs some school systems have even added two more years of public secondary education to enable youth to continue their education until they are likely to be welcomed in the labor market.

Two further extensions of public school services effect a still closer approach to the ideal of

serving the entire population. Vocational education opportunities now available in most cities make it possible for workers to learn new trades or other occupations, or to refresh their knowledge of equipment and techniques in occupations at which they are experienced. Likewise, many cities are offering programs of adult education suited

"A democracy is interested in enhancing the life opportunities of its citizens even at the cost of reducing the service life of its physical properties. The next decades may be expected to witness even more extensive use of public school buildings for adult or general community use than in the past. Attention is therefore focused on planning school buildings adapted to wider use and free from traditional institutional characteristics. The public school building of a democracy should assist in carrying out the principles of that social order."—Morse A. Cartwright.

to the needs and desires of the average person above school age; included in these programs is usually a good sampling of purely intellectual, practical and avocational opportunities. By these means the public schools, like public recreation, are extending their services to an ever increasing proportion of the total population.

Schools Use Recreation

As a result of research in child development, and perhaps too because of lay criticism of the effectiveness of schools, educational authorities are beginning to place less reliance upon academic instruction as the sole means of educating children and are giving more attention to the development of attitudes and practical skills that contribute to the effectiveness of personal living. In order to do this the schools have borrowed some of the techniques popularized by and often identified with recreation.

Nursery schools and kindergartens are considered to be part of the school system, yet a large part of the learning which goes on under these auspices is nothing more nor less than guided play. From this play young children learn how to get along with others, develop neuro-muscular coordinations by manipulating objects, and build up a background of experiences and meanings that is invaluable in learning to read and speak correctly.

In many elementary schools children are encouraged to undertake creative activities in order to develop powers of self-expression by as many means as possible. Music, dramatics and games are not only introduced into the school curriculum at this level but are also used as devices for obtaining a mastery of essential learnings. There is at least a tendency to replace the cut-and-dried subject matter instruction with informal, guided activities directed toward well-defined ends. The

learning of words about everyday affairs is giving way to learning through direct experience.

At the high school level some of the same trends in teaching method are apparent. Music, art, dramatics, homemaking, craftwork and sports are frequently offered to enable youth to develop appreciations, creativeness and a

degree of technical skill. The library becomes a familiar resource for securing information and for leisure reading. Teachers of academic subjects such as science or literature are giving less emphasis to the development of technical proficiency in their respective disciplines and more emphasis to avocational values.

At the post-school level courses of study are most often selected according to the needs and interests of the learner. Two persons working side by side at a given learning task might be actuated by entirely different motives. Whether a given individual is learning particular skills for vocational or recreational purposes cannot often be discerned by an observer. Moreover, the one who is seeking recreational values might, within a month or year, be using his skill for the purpose of earning a living. Here, if anywhere within the school system, recreation and education are so merged as to be indistinguishable. The school program at all levels thus makes increasing use of recreational techniques and values.

The Question Answered

From the evidence available it appears that public schools are directly concerned with recreation whether they realize it or not. Both schools and recreation make a distinctive contribution to the education of child and adult; both contribute necessary aspects of education. Moreover, both public agencies are coming to serve substantially the same population with educational opportunities that have many elements in common; each takes advantage of techniques and values popularized by the other. Shall the school, then, make its buildings, playgrounds and playfields available to the whole community outside of school hours for purposes that are so closely allied with its own?

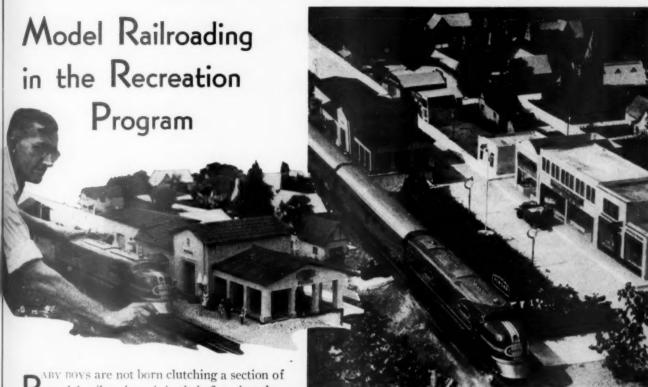
On the affirmative side of this question there are factors to be considered in addition to those mentioned in the foregoing. Public schools are public facilities bought and paid for by all the people; by all ethical considerations these people should have the privilege of using these facilities when their primary function has been served. There is no point in allowing valuable facilities to lie idle a third to a half of the time. Recreation is here to stay. If it is to render useful service it must have the use of indoor and outdoor facilities such as schools can provide at those hours when most people want them. Certainly it would be unthinkable to duplicate these costly facilities at public expense.

Increasingly, it seems, school authorities are finding it difficult to secure enough funds to pay for the program now carried on in their schools. Will not further use of buildings and grounds for recreation add to these financial burdens? In answer to this question perhaps it is not impertinent to say that the public is willing to pay for tangible values received and less willing to pay for values that are not immediately apparent. In other words, if more of the general public can be brought into the school to enjoy some of its benefits directly and personally that public is likely to be more kindly disposed toward the school budget. It matters not whether the services be recreational or academic; the services will sooner or later sell themselves to the people.

Since the beginnings of public education in this country three centuries ago the school has been the natural community center. Through its effect upon succeeding generations of citizens it has become a bulwark of democratic government. It has expanded its services from time to time to meet new needs as they arose; the most striking example of this is the addition of the high school to the public school system nearly a hundred years ago. Today this new opportunity for service arises. Much pioneering has already been done.

The use of schools for recreation is not a new kind of educational service. It is better described as an extension and improvement of the kind of community educational service now rendered by schools. The assumption of responsibility for administering all community recreation is not the matter in question; it is rather a matter of the philosophy of education. No school that seeks to render a vital community service can afford not to open its doors and playfields for the use of all the people.

"The child school of tomorrow is being developed on the basic democratic principles of human living. It is a school designed to bring out the best characteristics of individuals and to make for successful living through each day of school life. Thus the school planned for child needs also conforms in many respects to the school designed to meet adult needs. . . . The community school of tomorrow should be the center in which the life needs of people are being met and in which advantage is being taken of man's inventions and man's contributions to the arts and sciences."—
Engelhardt and Engelhardt in Planning the Community School.



Courtesy American Association of Model Railroads

By H. R. HOWARD Pomona, California

in the seventeen day period during September in which it is open to the public. The exhibit changes from year to year, and is located in the most prominent space on the fair grounds. It occupies a piece of land 110 feet long and 99 feet wide.

The exhibit has a wide popular appeal because it is so colorful and has real educational value. Last September's railroad exhibit reflected scenes of the West. A Hopi Indian village with nine adobe pueblos was carefully constructed and placed in a setting of cacti and shrubs typical of the desert. An Indian village of the plains, composed of thirteen tepees, was nestled in another curve of track.

Bridges are extremely interesting subjects for the modelmaker, and the Fair exhibit contained four modern structures over water, and one bridge over a dry arroyo. The latter was a heavy doubletruss type bridge, sixty-five inches long and twenty inches wide, made of metal in the workshop. It was mounted on concrete abutments and was equipped with semaphores and a block control device to prevent train collisions.

Baby Boys are not born clutching a section of model railroad track in their fists, but they get around early in life to exploring the possibilities of miniature trains. A train is one of a boy's first presents, and interest in model railroading stays keen as he grows into manhood. It is becoming an increasingly popular adult hobby, and there are several hundred clubs devoted to this leisure activity in the United States.

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The Pomona Recreation Center was one of the first groups to recognize the universal appeal of miniature railroading, and has developed an outstanding program during the last fourteen years. This program has material of great interest to other recreation centers who hope to start model railroading in their own community. The Pomona group has faced and solved many of the problems confronting the Recreation Center, and did so without the help of expert outside organizations such as the American Association of Model Railroads which has since been formed to help groups solve the railroading problems which the Pomona club had to tackle alone.

The writer is particularly close to the Pomona railroad project. He has been an ardent "rail" for thirty years, and is largely responsible for the work done in this hobby at the Center. The annual model railroad exhibit at the Los Angeles County Fair grounds is the high point of the Pomona railroad activities during the year. Seven hundred thousand people see this layout annually

Color and realism were added to the display by landscaping. A miniature mountain range was constructed, and two waterfalls, supplied by an electric pump, tumbled down the rocky cliffs. Two picturesque lakes were formed, and stocked with blue-gill game fish. An old water mill and wind mill ran as long as wind and water held out. At the risk of getting statistical for a moment, we might add that some 400 pink verbena, 500 baby spruce trees, 350 midget yellow zinias, and two truck loads of assorted shrubs went into the display.

During the years since the Friday in September, 1926 when the Pomona Center was organized, its members have built models duplicating nearly every phase of American life and reproducing many historic scenes. The Gold Rush of 1849 was reflected in a deserted Ghost Town which sprawled beside the tracks of the 1936 Fair. Once a display was built around the San Dimas Chamber of Commerce Puddingstone Reservoir project. Old-fashioned automobiles have been duplicated. A 1920 model Paige, complete with license plate, and minutely accurate engine, is one of the most interesting of the automotive exhibits.

Religious buildings have not been overlooked by the Pomona group. One of the features of the 1940 exhibit was an old-fashioned church wired for sound which played hymns of thirty years ago. The group also constructed a model of the Academy of Holy Names.

Modern touches such as a dude ranch and a reproduction of the Pomona Station are included in this extensive system, and a group of up-to-date bungalows such as one might see in a real estate development were made by the Girls' Model Club of Pomona. Electric plants and power houses have been built and placed realistically in the exhibit at the foot and up to sides of a model dam spill.

Many interesting models have accumulated during the years in an attic above the writer's personal workshop. Housed there are four model Franciscan missions, churches, homes, stores, stations, and a miscellaneous assortment of other trackside structures which make the annual exhibit tremendously realistic.

All of the equipment

The American Association of Model Railroads, whose purpose it is to advise boys' railroad clubs, has published two books available to railroad club leaders without charge. The "Leader's Manual," written for leaders without previous model railroad experience who wish to organize a club, contains practical suggestions for financing the activity, overcoming the problem of limited space, and developing a club program. The "Handbook for Model Builders" gives suggestions and working instructions for building the railroad system, laying tracks, and modeling scenery and wayside structures. The A.A.M.R. should be addressed at 15 East 26th Street, New York.

used on the annual Los Angeles County Fair layout is tested and run in on a track layout located in the garden of the author, which is the second railroad system in the Pomona recreation center. Here trains are run each Sunday afternoon for visitors who, according to the guest book, totaled more than 300 during the past summer, and came from all over the country.

The second layout is a double track which encircles an old New England village. The village is reproduced from childhood recollections of the writer. The town of Wildwood includes models of a church wired for sound, a general store, the old red school house, livery stable, covered bridge, and music shell. A water tower, houses, and stock corral are there, and so, too, is a signal bridge and interlocking tower. On this layout, also, growing plants are used to add to the realism of the scene.

A third railroad system has just been started by the Pomona Recreation Center. After all these years without women or girls in the club, by special decree they are now permitted to join the photographic and railroad departments. During the past week three have availed themselves of the opportunity to join.

Some Practical Problems

The recreation center which desires to include model railroading in the hobby program is immediately faced with the problems which all workers in leisure activities know too well — how to finance the program, and where to house it. The Pomona Recreation Center, which started from the humble beginnings of one man and a group of fifteen boys interested in model building, without a clubroom or a treasury, has been successful in circumventing these very real challenges, and its experience may be an inspiration to other groups.

It might be in order to explain at this point that

the Pomona Recreation Center is not financed by the city. It is completely independent and financed by the efforts of the members. The club enjoys the full cooperation of all city officials, however. It was the forerunner of all recreation work along shop lines in this city. There were no other groups for several years after we started, and for three years we rented the city rights for crafts on Saturdays. This trial tested the movement for the city, and from this seed has grown a group which does woodwork entirely in a southside park. Fathers and sons work side by side in the Pomona Recreation Center, and membership ranges from boys of ten to men of sixty, all of whom do their bit to keep the group going.

The Pomona Model Yacht Club, as our group was called when it was organized, held its first meeting in the rear of a sporting goods store of a fine man interested in boys. As the club grew, he permitted it to have a small bench and some tools to build models, mostly boats. He also advanced

money to buy supplies. The group's first, and greatest, loss was his death soon after The Pomona Recreation Center has always worked on the fundamental belief that a club must change as times and conditions change. Program innovations have been made at least every three years, new hobbies added, and, in some cases, equipment has been changed if lack of interest failed to warrant its upkeep. The two year period during which the club stayed in the quarters described marked the shift in interest to model railroading as the stellar attraction of the center. The Center has continued to add hobbies, photography and radio being the latest, but model railroading still holds its place in the affections of the group.

After a two year residence, the building in

which the Pomona Recreation Center was housed was sold to a woman's club, and

The "City of Los Angeles," traveling at a high rate of speed, passes the miniature city at the 1938 County Fair



its organization. However, his wife allowed the group to go on, and gave it every help until she died about two years later.

Membership had grown from the original fifteen to over twice that number, and in scouting around for larger quarters we discovered an unused school building, long since outmoded by Pomona's modern education system. It required only placing the facts before the school board to get their permission to use the building until such time as it was sold. the hunt for space was again begun. The board that had befriended the group offered the use of a building with two large rooms 65 by 25 feet until such time as it was necessary to move the building. This new move was faced joyously by the youngsters. This time we did not move across town with the club belongings on our backs, but traveled in style, with two trucks carrying the club belongings to its new quarters, and most of the eighty boys perched atop the loads.

Another two years passed, and once again the

Board informed us that they were compelled to have the building moved to make room for the school playground. The President of the Board offered the building for twenty-five dollars—really a gift, for the building would cost several hundred dollars to build. There was exactly twenty-five dollars in the club treasury, and this we exchanged for a building of our own.

The next inventory showed that we had a new building and no place to put it. By this time the club had so many friends in the city that we felt safe in any venture. The office of the Mayor was visited and our troubles placed before him. Laying aside his duties of office, he invited us to go for a drive around the city to check up on a location for the clubhouse. A fine site was chosen in Pomona's beautiful hill park. The following day a meeting of the City Council verified the transaction, provided us with a man to keep the flowers and lawn in beautiful condition, and authorized the park police to see that no harm came to the club or its young members. Incidentally, both the gardener and the patrolman who watch over us are members of the club.

It now seems like an audacious move, but we ordered the building moved to the new site although we did not know where the seventy-five dollars to pay the moving company, nor the additional seventy-five to pay for the new foundation, were to be found. By the time the invoices reached us in the customary thirty days, we did have the one hundred and fifty dollars.

The Pomona Recreation Center has had no Aladdin's lamp to rub when it becomes necessary to solve financial problems, but through the courtesy of our many friends and our own hard work we have been able to expand steadily through the fourteen years of our existence.

The money we needed to move and to provide the foundation for our club house was raised through a dance made possible through the courtesy of the Charles P. Rowe Post of the American Legion in permitting us to use its hall. One of the dads, who prefers to remain anonymous, helped pay other expenses that were incurred in getting the building settled.

To digress a moment, these dances were such happy events that they were carried on for over three years at fifteen cents per couple for boys, their girl friends and parents only. No townspeople not connected with the club were admitted. We have had as many as two hundred people on the dance floor at one time and never a single case

of ungentlemanly conduct. We had our own orchestra comprised of members, and paid regular wages.

Other sources of revenue have always suggested themselves when the need arose. For many years we took all awards at the Los Angeles County Fair for model building. At that time the Fair Association put fifty dollars aside each year for the best club showing, and this prize money bought tools. In recent years the Los Angeles County Fair has not offered a prize for the best club showing, but models are entered under the department in which they are classified.

At the present time the finances of the Pomona Recreation Center are taken care of by dues of fifty cents per month. This usually is sufficient. In the event a boy comes to us with lots of enthusiasm, but no money, he is as welcome as though he had all the money in the world. He may do two hours of work for the club, and his dues are credited to his membership card for the month.

The Pomona Recreation Center has been in existence for fourteen years. We have never had much money or have we been able to afford all of the things we would like to do at any given time, but we do feel that we have been able to give our members the things they wanted most, and that we have worked steadily forward. It is our feeling that planning and imagination and work will solve most of the problems to which the recreation center is heir.

"Miniature railroading is a natural club venture because of the wide diversity of skills involved, for this hobby requires all of the patient craftsmanship of airplane building plus a lot of other things. Aside from laying tracks and building accurate train replicas, your model railroader constructs trestles, tunnels and bridges of every known type, turntables, roundhouses, water towers and other railway buildings—all in minute scale. . . . Automatic signaling and remote-control systems whereby ten or more little trains are operated at once from a panel board, represent one of the most technical phases of this hobby.

"This is model railroading as distinguished from merely playing with your son's Christmas set of trains. . . . When I talk of 'model railroaders' I refer to some 200,000 adult men who spend five or six million dollars a year on this hobby for their own edification."—Paul W. Kearney in Kids Call It Fun, Magazine Section, New York Herald Tribune.

That Spring Perennial—Rope Jumping!

every front sidewalk is crowded with girls and jumping ropes as spring comes to the land. No matter where one goes, east, west, north, or south, hand in hand with the sudden appearance of marbles appear the jumping ropes! One day the walks are clear. The

next day they are occupied by jumpers. Each section of this country has its local version of jumping rhymes. Variations are slight so that a child may easily move from one locality to another. For a few times only need she watch and listen to her new schoolmates' jumping rope verses. Soon the "new girl" is jumping and chanting with the "old timers," happy and at home.

Here are some of the rhymes to which the girls of Falls City jump:

Take a long rope with two girls, one at each end as turners, and watch the fun begin. Without fully turning the rope, the girls do plain jumping to (1) a gradually raised rope, (2) a wriggling rope (sidewards or up and down), or (3) a rocking rope. The names of these are:

Building House Cut the Cheese
Snake Baby Cradle

With a full turn of the rope, one may add a plain jump each time and Run Through School.

Counting rhymes are very popular. Some children jump to 200 (200 times) before missing. This group includes:

Going by Ages Going by A.B.C. Raspberry (or Strawberry) Charlie Chaplin

Cinderella, dressed in brown, yellow, blue, green, white, black, maroon, red, rose, pink, etc.

Soon a girl becomes an expert and demands something harder than the counting rhymes. Next come the "Hot" rhymes such as:

Salt, Pepper, Vinegar, Hot!
Mable, Mabel, Set the Table
One, Two, Three—Seven. All Good Children
Go to Heaven

Even pantomime creeps into rope jumping. Indeed, acting out the words of the verses is a

By SUE HALL

Out in Falls City, Nebraska, a city of 6,000 people, the girls jump rope from daybreak to sunset! With the help of their physical education director they have collected the rhymes and events which they use. Try them on your playground and neighborhood sidewalk!

favorite activity. The jumpers try all of the following:

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Rich Man, Poor Man One, Two, Buckle My Shoe Ten Little Indians Down in the Valley Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

For quick and snappy jumping the single line verses are handy, for instance:

High Hills, Low Hills, No Hills Long Hair, Short Hair, No Hair Bicycle, Tricycle, Motorcycle, Car Smart Girl, Rich Girl, Dumb Girl, Poor Girl Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Pearl Upstairs, Downstairs, Under the Bed

Fine Points of the Game

There is more involved in jumping rope than the average onlooker may think! Here are some of the fine points:

Fundamentals

Single rope; Long rope; Variations

Combinations of Plain Jumping

Without full turning of rope
Building House Snake
Baby Cradle Cut the Cheese
With full turn of rope
Running Through School

Counting

Going by A.B.C. Raspberry
Going by Ages Charlie Chaplin
Cinderella

Hot

Salt, Pepper; Mable, Mabel; 1, 2 . . 7, . . . Heaven

Verses with Pantomime

Teddy Bear Ten Little Indians
Rich Man Down in the Valley
1, 2, Buckle Your Shoe Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

Single Lines

High Hills Diamond
Long Hair Upstairs
Bicycle Roses
Smart Girl Pink
January

Description of Fundamentals

Single Rope

Crossed Elbows. Cross arms at elbow and turn rope with hands far out to the side to have a wide opening through which to jump.

Rock. Leave one foot in front of the other. Hop on front foot and then back foot, rocking back and forth.

Heel, heel. Hop, placing alternate heels forward.

Feet Together and Apart. Alternate, jumping with feet closed and then spread apart.

Ball Tap. Hop with straight leg in front and toe tapping in front.

Leg Swing. Hop on one foot, swinging forward other foot.

Jump Turn. Turn around while jumping with rope.

Toe Tap in Back. Hop on one foot, tapping toe of other foot in back.

Ball Bouncing. Rope handles held in front with rope on floor in back of jumper. Hold ball and rope handles together. Drop ball and turn rope. Jump, turning rope under a bounce of ball.

Legs Crossed. Hop on both feet with one ankle crossed over the other.

Two Feet. Hop with two feet together and at the same time.

Single Hop. Hop on one foot either right or left. Other foot raised, slightly bent at knee.

Skip. Ordinary skip over rope. One foot and then the other jumps in place or traveling.

Dance. Hop with a tap movement, such as a brush and tap between hops.

Long Rope

One long and one short rope. Two girls turn one long rope while one girl runs in jumping a small rope. Jump both in succession or together. Turn both ropes front door, back door, or one rope front door with the other back door.

Two long ropes. Two girls each hold the ends of two long ropes. Turners hold one hand slightly higher than the other. Hold one rope still and out to the side out of the way. Start turning the other, then turn the first rope the opposite way. Run in and jump both ropes in turn as each strikes the ground. Jumping is double quick but not pepper.

One long rope or medium length. Each turner makes a three-fourth turn standing inside of the rope and continues jumping.

One turner uses right arm for turning and turns body to left three-fourth of a circle.

The other turner uses left arm for turning and turns body to right three-fourth of a circle.

Both turners are inside of the rope facing the same direction and jumping together.

Running in front door. Rope turns towards the jumper. Jumper runs in and jumps after she is inside.

Running in back door. Rope turns away from jumper. Jumper jumps rope as she goes in.

Variations

Change of direction of jumper: 1. Forward; 2. Backward; 3. Sideward.

Change of direction of rope: I. Front door; 2. back door.

Change of pace of rope and jumper: 1. Slow, jump every word; 2. Medium, jump every other word; 3. Fast, "hot," jump as fast as possible.

Change of height of rope and jumps: 1. Low, strikes ground; 2. High water, about knee height or higher.

Description of Rope Jumping Rhymes

Running Through School. Run through a turning rope without jumping. Run in, jump one, run out. Run in, jump twice, run out. Add a jump each time until all grades have been completed. College years—go in back door and jump one for first year, etc.

Building House. Jump a still rope placed on the sidewalk. Jump from one side to the other and back again either forward, backward or sideward. Raise slightly for each jump. Raise a definite number of times such as age of girl.

Baby's Cradle. Jump a rope swaying from side to side. Rope is same height throughout. Jump from right to left to right to left, etc., or front to back to front to back, etc. Continue until a miss occurs.

Snake. Wriggle, wave, or wag the rope sideways on the sidewalk. One jump over wriggling rope and try not to be bitten. The rope may be gradually raised for variety.

Cut the Cheese. Wriggle, wave, or wag the rope up and down. One jump over the wriggling rope.

Charlie Chaplin. Jump a turning rope once for every other word. Continue counting until a miss occurs.

(Verse)

Charlie Chaplin sat on a pin

How many inches did it go in? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Going by Ages. Jump a turning rope. The youngest girl turns the rope and the next youngest jumps first, the oldest last. Or, jump once for

every year of the jumper's age. Or, jump until a miss to determine how many years the jumper will live.

Going by A. B. C., etc. Jump a turning rope once for every letter in the alphabet. Continue jumping until a miss occurs. Then give a boy's name beginning with the letter missed. The jumper who goes all through the alphabet without a miss will be an "old maid." Go through a second time to learn the first initial of the boy's last name.

Going by Numbers. Jump a turning rope once for every number. Continue until a miss occurs. The number on which jumper misses indicates the number of children the jumper will have.

Raspberry. Jump a turning rope once for every other syllable. Continue counting until a miss. (Verse)

Raspberry, Raspberry, Raspberry Jam (or strawberry) Tell me the initials of your (or my) old man. A, B,C,D, etc.

Cinderella. Jump a turning rope once for every other syllable. Continue counting until a miss to decide the number of "people" in the first verse.

(Verse)

Black—Cinderella, dress in black
Went up stairs to peak through a crack.
How many people did she see? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Blue—Cinderella, dresed in blue.

Went upstairs to clean the flues.

How many flues did she clean? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Went upstairs to use some glue.

How many bottles did she use?

Went upstairs to shine her shoes. How many shoes did she shine?

Brown—Cinderella, dressed in brown.

Went upstairs to make a gown.

How many stitches did she use? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Went upstairs in her nightgown. How many gowns did she wear?

Green—Cinderella, dressed in green.

Went upstairs to have some dreams.

How many dreams did she have, 1, 2, 3, etc.

Went upstairs to see a queen. How many queens did she see?

Went upstairs to fix the screens. How many screens did she fix?

Went upstairs to use some cream. How many jars did she use?

Maroon—Cinderella, dressed in maroon.

Went to the kitchen to make some macaroons.

How many macaroons did she make? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Went upstairs to clean a room. How many dustcloths did she use?

or

Went upstairs to put on some perfume. How many bottles did she use?

Pink—Cinderella, dressed in pink
Went upstairs to use the ink.
How many bottles did she use? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Went upstairs to write with ink. How many letters did she write?

Went upstairs to wash the sink. How many cleansers did she use?

Red—Cinderella, dressed in red
Went upstairs to make the bed.
How many covers did she use? 1, 2, 3, etc.
or

How many beds did she make?

Rose—Cinderella, dressed in rose
Went upstairs to powder her nose.
How many boxes did she use? 1, 2, 3, etc.

White—Cinderella, dressed in white.

Went upstairs to turn on the light.

How many light bulbs did she use? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Or
How many switches did she turn on?

How many cords did she pull?

Went upstairs to see a knight. How many knights did she see?

Went outside to fly a kite. How many kites did she fly?

Yellow—Cinderella, dressed in yellow. Went upstairs to kiss her fellow. How many kisses did she give. 1, 2, 3, etc.

Lace-Cinderella, dressed in lace.

Went upstairs to powder her face.

How many boxes did she use? 1, 2, 3, etc.

Salt, Pepper, Vinegar, Hot! Jump a turning rope once for each word. After the word "hot" jump fast. (Verse)

Salt, Pepper, Vinegar, Hot!

Mabel, Mabel. Jump a turning rope once for each word. After the word "hot" jump fast. (Verse)

Mable, Mabel, set the table Don't forget the salt, pepper, vinegar, hot.

1-2 Buckle My Shoe or (Button). Jump a turning rope for every other word. Pantomime. Run out at end of verse.

(Verse)

1- 2 Buckle my shoe (button)

3- 4 Shut the door

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ne gor 5- 6 Pick up sticks

7-8 Lay them straight

9-10 Big fat hen

11-12 Ring the bell (or Books on the shelf)

13-14 Maids a-'courting

15-16 Girls a fixing

17-18 Boys are waiting

19-20 That's a plenty

Rich Man, Poor Man. Jump a turning rope once for every other word. Continue until a miss.

(Verse)

Rich man, poor man, begger man, thief, Doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief, Tinker, tailor, cowboy, sailor, Big house, little house, pig pen, barn, Silk, satin, calico, rags.

Teddy Bear. Jump a turning rope once for every other word. Pantomime. Run out at end of verse.

(Verse)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, buckle your shoe. (button) (tie)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, you'd better skiddoo.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, go upstairs.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say your prayers.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, switch off the light.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say good night.

Ten Little Indians. Jump a turning rope once for every other word. Run out at end. (Verse)

1 little, 2 little, 3 little Indians

4 little, 5 little, 6 little Indians

7 little, 8 little, 9 little Indians 10 little Indian boys.

10 little, 9 little, 8 little Indians

7 little, 6 little, 5 little Indians

4 little, 3 little, 2 little Indians 1 little Indian boy.

Down in the Valley. Jump a turning rope. Run out at end.

(Verse)

Down in the valley where the green grass grows.

(or in the meadow)

Sat little Mary, sweet as a rose.

Along came a billy goat and kissed her on the cheek.

(or nose)

Oh she let the billy goat kiss her on the cheek.

(or How many kisses did she get?)

Down in the valley where the green grass grows.

An ant stepped on an elephant's toes. The elephant cried out in great surprise

"Why don't you pick on somebody your own size?"

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary. Jump a turning rope. Run out at end.

(Verse)

Mary, Mary, quite contrary How does your garden grow? With silver bells and cockle shells And the rest haven't come up yet.

Down by the Seashore. Jump a turning rope. Change rhythms as indicated. Continue counting until a miss occurs.

(Verse)

Susie broke the milk bottle

And blamed it onto me (Jump every other word)

I told Ma

Ma told Pa (Jump every other word)

Susie got a licking

So Ha, Ha, Ha. (Jump every other word)

How many lickings did she get? (Jump every other word) 1, 2, 3, etc.

Dozen at the Station. Jump a turning rope every other word. Run out at end.

(Verse)

Down at the station, early in the morn
See the little daffodils, all in a row
See the little driver, turn the little handle
Choo, choo, toot, toot, off they go.
See the little pufferbillys, early in the morn
See the little engineer, pull his little handle
Toot, toot, puff, puff, off they go.

Single line verses. Jump a turning rope once for every word. Continue until a miss occurs.

(Verse)

Pink, red, yellow, blue — choose the color of your wedding gown.

High hills, low hills, no hills.

Long hair, short hair, no hair.

Upstairs, downstairs, under the bed.

Bicycle, tricycle, motorcycle, car.

Smart girl, rich girl, dumb girl, poor girl.

Roses, violets, carnations, weeds.

Diamonds, ruby, and 10 cent ring.

January, February, March, April, etc.

In a fascinating old volume which was published in 1845 under the title, Sports and Pastimes of the People of England, Joseph Strutt offers the following description of the game of rope jumping. "Rope Skipping," he says, "is probably very ancient. It is performed by a rope held by both ends, that is, one end in each hand, and thrown forward or backward over the head and under the feet alternately. Boys often contend for superiority of skill in this game, and he who passes the rope about most times without interruption is the conqueror. In the hop season, a hopstem stripped of its leaves is used instead of a rope, and in my opinion it is preferable."

All-Weather Hiking

of each month the little village of Holland, New York, greets the members and friends of the Buffalo Hiking Club. Traveling thirty miles by chartered bus, these young people from schools, offices, and factories arrive attired in practical outdoor clothing. And here where the rugged terrain of the

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northern edge of the Allegheny plateau might daunt less adventuresome hikers, they tramp over byways and abandoned roads, viewing scenery as beautiful as New York State can offer. Weather does not exist that can dampen their ardor, nor do the deepest of snows discourage them!

The Club was organized in 1937 to arrange transportation from Buffalo for nature study hikes sponsored by the Garden Center Institute of Buffalo and conducted by the Center's naturalists. The irregularities and beauties of the hills of Holland, with their steep climbs, innumerable gullies, unspoiled views and occasional bits of primeval forests, have been an unceasing attraction not only to a faithful nucleus of regular comers, but to increasing numbers of new hikers some of whom find in this activity exactly what they want and so become "regulars." From small beginnings the attendance

has grown to an average of over forty maintained during 1939 and

1940.

There are no age limits, and frequently there is a liberal sprinkling of hikers well past middle age. Sometimes an entire family participates, and it is not always the younger members who best endure the precipitous climbing or the repeated ups By MABEL H. JAMES Holland, New York

A joyous, strenuous hiking program, healthy appetites, ever-strengthening friendships—you'll find them all in the Buffalo Hiking Club! and downs of hiking over terrain that is deeply and frequently cut by gullies! Hobbies of the hikers, which are many, include geology, bird study, photography, moss collecting, general nature study, and just hiking.

Excerpts from a letter written in June by one of the members indicate a few of the things

the hikers enjoy:

"This past year was the first time the writer had the opportunity to witness in the woods Mother Nature's complete folding and unfolding of her beauty. Through the summer months we shall carry with us, tucked away in our memories, such thumbnail sketches as these: Nature's final curtain call amid flaming bursts of red and shining yellow; hickory nuts; apple-laden trees; barbed wire fences; more barbed wire fences; the challenging uphill climbs; the rests at the top of the hills; the congenial companionships; fields of virgin white snow; the soft velvet feel of snow under foot; fox and geese; snow-covered evergreens; signing the guest book; hiking in a steady downpour; dripping wet pine branches; rushing brooks; wet moss showing bright green everywhere in the rain; five white-tailed deer; the

Pratt hospitality; 'sugaring off' at Orville's farm and

Orville's farm and the rushing creek in the wind; a horned lark; an automobile horn signaling (don't worry—it's the assistant field captain!); the manly Art assisting ladies over fences with finesse; the first-aider, Harold, standing by the fences; grass whistles; Val's sail;

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Hikers learn to recognize teasel and other

weeds conspicuous in the winter landscape

Picture by G. E. Smith

(Continued on page 748)

What They Say About Recreation

"HAT FURTHER provisions should we make for lifting the cultural level of America? The material poverty of great masses of our people is exceeded only by the spiritual starvation they suffer for lack of good music, fine art, beauty, color, and inspiration. Whether culture in its highest sense is to be the possession of the many depends upon whether our fine arts educational plans accompany our economic improvement plans." — Dr. J. W. Studebaker, Commissioner of Education.

"The arts are not all social. People who make things by hand often work alone; so do collectors. But they, like the rest of us, need to get together now and then to find out what others are doing, to renew enthusiasm, and simply for the sake of agreeable company."—E. L. Kirkpatrick in Guideposts for Rural Youth.

"Happiness is that abiding contentment that comes from a complete and abundant life, even though such a life includes, as all lives must, both success and failure, prosperity and adversity, sunshine and shadow, cradle songs and funeral hymns. To be happy we must know the realities of life, whatever they may be."—From The Purposes of Education in American Democracy.

"Many of our cities are still wildernesses for thousands of small children, in so far as the provision of constructive and real play opportunities is concerned. The menace of casual street associations is little realized by the taxpayers when they refuse to support well-planned playground activities."—Cheney C. Jones in Social Work Year Book, 1941.

"The job we have in recreation is to expose people to a great variety of recreational opportunities, to make them brush up against a lot of things and try them under decent circumstances, to tease them into doing things. When we talk about crafts we are not primarily concerned with what the individual does with the article when he takes it home, but what working on the article does to him."—G. Ott Romney.

"The anonymous freedom which modern conditions give the individual creates new problems for social control and makes more necessary the supervision of many forms of recreation. Those agencies, both public and private, which provide wholesome opportunities for study and play of one type or another protect the community as well as individual children from costly and perhaps disastrous social experiences."—Cheney C. Jones in Social Work Year Book, 1941.

"It seems reasonable to expect, from the experience of the past few years, that the use of our forests for recreational purposes has now become as definitely a part of any future forest management as the production of timber or other forest products. . . . Recreation of one kind or another in our forests has come to mean a year-round use of them." — From Massachusetts Conservation Bulletin.

"The activities common to most folks, the kind that have a universal appeal, the ones that build up a life in a community and stimulate pride in the countryside are athletics and games, fairs and exhibits, music, social pastimes, addresses, discussions, plays, festivals, and pageants. These five activities are characteristic of both the country and the city. . . . All of them are means of an outward expression of an inward feeling."—Alfred G. Arvold.

"Before long America may desperately need a generation possessed not only of a vivid and practical imagination, eager and competent in devising new and improved processes and products. We may need also disciplined skill of hand to bring the visualized idea into substantial reality. Perhaps we should place additional emphasis upon play in terms of early experience, to lay the foundation of the mechanical skills which society will find necessary."

"You cannot classify recreation. It is not an activity or a type of activity. It is an attitude. It is your response to what you are doing. It is a way of life."

Table Tennis Versus Ping-Pong



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HE GAME OF TABLE TENNIS has been sadly underrated in recreational adventuring. It has, in the past, enjoyed the negative distinction of being an activity limited in physical-workout possibilities. The layman will ask you with naive bluntness, "Table tennis? That's the same as pingpong, isn't it?" To avoid complications you will probably answer "yes," knowing all the while that this is not true! Table tennis is a highly scientific athletic sport requiring quick feet. Ping-pong is a more passive diversion requiring the same equipment-and feet. But you won't tell that to the layman because it means tiring involvement. Instead you go about your business until the next time somebody says, "Don't be so high-brow. The name of the game is ping-pong." That's when you decide something's got to be done. So you do it.

You live in a typical town of some forty thousand people, and there are, perhaps, two separate bowling establishments, a couple of high school gymnasiums, a half dozen men's clubs, but—no table tennis emporium. So you give up your ideas of big league playing conditions and concentrate on the "cellar" game. You know of a number of

By

By MAXWELL TASGAL
Board of Recreation Commissioners
Bloomfield, New Jersey

people who have tables in their cellars, so you feel out the possibilities of organizing a league. Your publicity in the local paper picks up the tempo, and at the first organization meeting a goodly half dozen people appear. You notice that these individuals are mostly in their teens and are all of the male species. Two representatives are from boys' clubs and one from a college. During the course of the meeting it is decided that each representative will organize a team of four, a schedule will be drawn up, and matches will be held one night a week. The gathering disbands with the reminder that the next meeting will be the final one and everyone is urged to look around for more teams.

The next and final meeting is held and only four representatives are present. This is a terrific strain on your recreational ingenuity and a blow to your "table tennis" aspirations! You survive, however, to the extent of having the four representatives agree to pool players so that a six-team league is organized with three players on each team. The following week the league gets under way accompanied by proper newspaper publicity.

Week in and week out the local paper carries thorough accounts of the matches as well as advance predictions and pretty soon things begin to happen. First the High School asks to have two faculty teams admitted. Then a bankers' group investigates. A tennis club asks questions. A social club has a team. And that's the way it goes. The league is too far advanced to permit of any newcomers, so a second league is organized, and this one has nine teams of four players each. The original league is named the "National League," and the new one the "American League," and of course it is decided that the winner of each league will play a "world series" for the town champion-ship.

The local newspaper now carries two columns of table tennis news instead of one, and pretty soon there is talk of the formation of an association dedicated to the cultivation and pursuit of bigger and better table tennis achievements. During the course of the boom you reflect on the values of your brain child. You notice that with all the other blessings attached to athletic activities, your pet is unique in that a certain social relationship of dignified proportions has been manifesting itself. You find that regardless of the character of the particular team, it assumes its role of guest and host with unerring graciousness. Every man's cellar is his castle. One particular bit of reflecting that brings forth a mental chuckle is the picture of the high school principal battling desperately for the point that will bring victory over his adversary, a recent high school student.

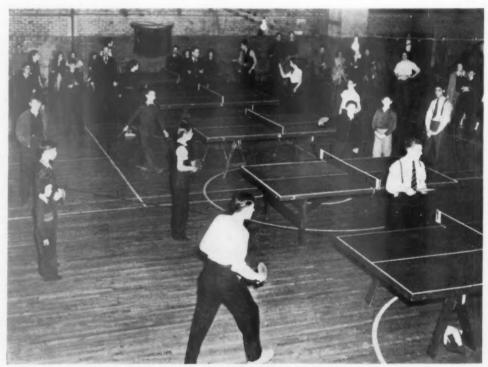
But what about ping-pong versus table tennis? Simply this. From among the numerous men engaged in league competition you have a choice minority who do play table tennis. These men, although not necessarily accomplished at the game, make an honest attempt to employ correct form, carry out offense and defense tactics, attend matches between top-notchers, and read books on the subject. One day you call in these players and outline a program of table tennis propaganda to

be injected into the patient in the proper doses at the proper times. For instance, your agent, in the lull of a match, will remark, "The other night in -(a neighboring city) I saw the sweetest backhand chop." Or, "Barna (a former world champ) holds his bat like this for his flick." Or, "A little more topspin, especially down the middle, will drive a piddler crazy." The ping-ponger might not ask

questions at the time but he will begin to realize that there may be more to the game than merely peppering the ball monotonously back and forth. On the newspaper front you mention the fact that about forty thousand people crammed their way in to see the world championships in London, or, "A space forty by sixty feet proved to be too small for the contestants one of whom scraped his knuckles on the side and rear railing." In actual competition the table tennis salesman with, let us say, a hard forehand smash, will illustrate to the ping-ponger that superiority is not necessarily based on competitive spirit but on method, pure and simple. Once the subject adopts the new system and gains a degree of skill at it, he becomes a confirmed table tennis fan and joins your legion to further stimulate progress in the new art.

The newly organized table tennis association decides that a week devoted to intensive table tennis activities would more or less climax an ambitious first year program so "—— Table Tennis Week" is formally announced. The high school gymnasium is brought into service for the occasion, and arrangements are made for the rigging up of adequate lighting facilities per table, the installation of an amplifying system, and the acquisition of a half dozen of the best tables in town.

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Courtesy Department of Public Recreation, Sioux City, Iowa

A Social Dance Club

By GEORGE A. FAIRHEAD Superintendent of Recreation Danville, Illinois

The Danville, Illinois, Department of Pub-

lic Recreation believes that if young peo-

ple of high school age are going to dance

participate in this activity in wholesome,

attractive surroundings, with adequate lead-

ership, and last, but by no means least, as

members of a dance club. And so a group

of young people are now enjoying weekly

dances at one of the city's recreation centers.

-and dance most of them will—they should

were held in our city without club organization. Attendance was high and certain necessary rules and regulations were hard to enforce. This was not due to lack of adequate leadership, but to the absence of any organization to which the young people could belong. With the opening of the center last fall a staff meeting was held and

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the problems of past years discussed. Most of the discussion centered around the control of the high school dances. Two staff members were selected to meet with the superintendent and work out methods of control. Some definite decisions were reached:

First, because of space limitations it was decided that 250 should be the maximum attendance. It was also decided that it should somehow be made to appear as a privilege to be allowed to dance. With these two objectives in mind the club was organized.

Each person desiring to join is required to register with the supervisor of the center, giving his name, age, school, address, and the names of his parents. If he qualifies for membership according to the regulations, that is, if he is a student in high school, or over sixteen years of age if not in high school, and not enrolled in grade school, his membership card is ready for him at the time of the next dance. No person is given a card on the night of the first dance he attends. On one side of the membership card appears the following:

Member's Signature Center Supervisor
On the other side of the card are a few rules such as the following:

- 1. We must not run or make noises on the stairs.
- 2. Smoking is allowed only at designated places.
- 3. Proper dress will be necessary at all times.

- The club committee reserves the right to withdraw this card for any reason.
- Please do not leave this buildand expect to come back in during the evening.
- 6. This card is not transferable.
 Around the edge of the card are numbers corresponding to the number of dances to be held during the year. These numbers are punched out as the member enters the hall. This makes it impossible for the person

to leave the dance and return, or to leave and give the card to someone outside.

Ten club members were selected to form a committee to help supervise and conduct the dances. Their duties are to plan the activities for intermission, such as a grand march, special entertainment, square dance, Virginia Reel, relay races, and stunts, to assist in maintaining order and in serving as hosts and hostesses. This committee meets with the center supervisor during the week to plan the next dance. They have also taken it as their duty to help individuals learn to dance for the first half hour of the evening. Special dances are held at certain times with favors, noise makers and suitable decorations adding to the festivities. The dance club meets once each week and dances from 7 to 10:30 P. M. There is a check room for the convenience of the members. The music is furnished by the Recreation Department orchestra. Part of the orchestra members are furnished by WPA and other are hired by the Recreation Department.

In other rooms there are ping-pong tables, card tables, checkers, carroms, books and magazines. In addition to these rooms we have a large lounge that is open to members who may be waiting to meet their friends.

The results of the organization of this dance club are most heartening to the persons responsible for its operation. It eliminates the huge number attending as just spectators or trouble makers, and leaves more room for actual dancing. It makes it impossible for persons to drop in after having

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Growing Up Together in San Francisco

N 1922, ON THE San Francisco playgrounds, a picture was taken of a quartet enthusiastically singing America. The singers were very young indeed—four years of age, to be exact! Years later, when they were high school students, they were rephotographed in their original pose, and the two pictures were published in the September,

1935, issue of RECREATION. In 1940 the group was reassembled and again photographed. Since it will not, in all probability, be possible to get the quartet together again, this photograph showing the 1940 group looking at their earliest picture will be of special interest. Have recreation departments in any other cities taken similar photographs?

This interesting photograph has been made available through the courtesy of Josephine Randall, Superintendent, San Francisco Recreation Commission



Awake and Sing!

By RODERICK WILLIAMS

YOU MAY BE one of those who say, "I hate opera, symphonies bore me. I'm just plain not musical. Why, I can't even carry a tune."

All you say may be perfectly true, and yet it may still be possible to open for

you the door to that mysterious and wonderful treasure house of enjoyment music can give you.

I have yet to find the person who is entirely cold to music in every form. In the first place, absolute insensibility to tone is exceedingly rare. You may think you are tone deaf just because you have never had opportunity to use that faculty in such a way as to develop it. In the second place musicality takes many forms. Those who are untouched by melodies or harmonies may be very susceptible to the strong rhythms of a jam session. Others like nothing but the tone of certain instruments—the plaintive piping of an oboe or the humble twang of a jew's-harp.

There are two general departments to music aside from composing—listening and performing. The word perform may have a terrifying sound when urged upon the uninitiated. But listening is a passive occupation, and it is my aim to take the frightening aspect from the word performer and show you how you can benefit by becoming one yourself.

Let us suppose that you are not one of those rare cases, but an average individual with the normal faculty of being able to render "My Country 'Tis of Thee." It makes no difference whether you pick it out with one finger on the piano, whistle it, or sing it. If you can do it at all you are a potential performer.

Some people just can't make their vocal cords behave; they aren't built that way. If you are one of these, get yourself a piccolo or a cheap accordion as a substitute. Experiment until you can play a scale and then try some simple tunes you can do by ear. Or perhaps you're one of those

"Wake up and start singing! Something, perhaps down deep inside you, will respond and make you glad."

ing learn to play and enjoy yourself. All you need is incentive.

"But," you are beginning to say "what is the

"But," you are beginning to say, "what is the point of all this emphasis on performing? Why should I make the effort to perform when I already enjoy listening? What is there in it for me?"

lucky ones who had music

lessons when you were

young and (quite properly)

rebelled at the antiquated

methods forced on you. If

so, you can take up where

you left off and with

modern, imaginative train-

Your questions are answered by Marshall Bartholomew, widely known and respected choral conductor and coach who once said to me, "When I was at the front in 1918 keeping the doughboys singing to forget their troubles, I discovered for myself the known fact that music is a fundamental need of mankind, as primitive and deep as the need for food and shelter and friendship."

The same thing applies today. A morning paper reported last winter that the Finns could always tell when the Russians were going to attack because they could hear much lively singing going on across the lines. The Russians were trying to forget that many of those who had gone out to attack the Finns the day before never came back.

If singing can make a professional soldier face death willingly what can it not do for you going about the everyday routine of life! When you are raising your voice in song with your fellow man, no matter whether you are singing by ear or reading your part in the music, you have achieved, however briefly, a state of serene harmony with

your surroundings. You are completely and absolutely absorbed. That leak in the roof, and that unbalanced checkbook—a thousand and one major and minor worries of life are sloughed off in an instant.

I don't even ask that you take my word for it. The facts and figures speak for themselves.

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"There is a certain irresistible magic in the sound of your own voice, even though you may be only a bathtub soloist," says Mr. Williams, formerly music critic on the *Brooklyn Eagle*. He feels that most individuals are a bit timid when it comes to raising their voices in the company of others, and believes that all they need is encouragement. And this he gives them in a stimulating article you'll enjoy reading.

A Notable Anniversary

N 1940 THE Fall River, Massachusetts, Boys' Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The first club to have a building erected solely for the recreation of underprivileged boys and the first to establish

a summer camp for their use, the Club is known throughout the country.

The Club also celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Thomas Chew in his capacity as its superintendent. Leader of the organization since its founding in 1890, Mr. Chew has influenced the growth of the clubs throughout the United States.

Perhaps few people realize that the earliest beginnings of boys' clubs date back seventy-one years to the Salem Fraternity in Salem, Massachusetts, where a farsighted person was disturbed by "the crowded state of the sidewalks with a human throng made up largely of young persons from twelve to fourteen years of age to those of twice as many years." The problem of how to reach this group with some wholesome recreation haunted this unidentified person until he finally found the solution in the Salem Fraternity, now considered the oldest boys' club in continuous operation in the country.

Meanwhile, in the summer of the preceding year, the Union for Christian Work in Providence, Rhode Island, had leased a suite of rooms "to control the mischievous and thoughtless element which will find its way into every public place." The three boys' club buildings now maintained in that city grew out of this early attempt to give young boys the advantages of well directed and organized play as well as the educational opportunities of various vocational classes.

In 1870 the New Bedford Boys' Club was formed, to be followed in quick succession by clubs in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Meriden, Worcester, and Lynn, as the idea gained the enthusiastic approval of leaders throughout southern New England.

When the movement reached Fall River some twenty years after the Salem experiment, it gained new impetus largely The fact that the Boys' Club of Fall River, Massachusetts, recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary calls attention to the beginnings of this movement for boys and to its consistent growth and development over a period of more than seventy years.

through the generous financial support of Matthew C. D. Borden and the leadership of Thomas Chew. The Club's first home was an ordinary store building; its first equipment consisted of an old piano,

twelve tables and benches, a small library of two hundred volumes, and sixty-five games. The attendance on the all-eventful first night was 141 boys. Since that night thousands of boys have wandered through the inviting doors of 360 clubs and their Canadian affiliates.

The growth of the Fall River Boys' Club was marked by a handsome building presented to it by Mr. Borden. Complete with a gymnasium, classrooms, library, swimming pool, game room, bowling allevs, baths, locker rooms, and a large auditorium, it was the first building of its kind. When the boys became too old for the club but persisted in joining in the evening's fun, the directors again went to Mr. Borden who donated the money for a men's division building, also the first of its kind and unique in that it was the only example of a men's organization which grew out of a boys' club. The Fall River organization now has grown to 1,500 members, and the men's division also boasts of an equally high membership. Throughout the country as a whole more than 285,000 youths are enjoying facilities made available to them. They are: swimming, bowling, saving money in Boys' Club banks, learning to draw, print, make things, and act in plays. In fact, the range of their activities is so great that every boy can find something to interest him year after year.

The educational programs of the clubs are ambitious ones. Among the most popular of the vocational classes are those in woodworking, drawing, toy making, and airplane modeling. But no less than fifty-eight other handicraft arts are taught in one or more of the clubs, and a total of 63,000 boys are actively enrolled in these classes.

Swimming pools have proved ideal places for Red Cross life saving tests. Athletic fields and gymnasiums are an integral part of several of the clubs,

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Boys' clubs in all parts of the country are federated in an organization known as the Boys' Clubs of America, Inc., which has its headquarters at 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City.



There was keen interest in making things last summer on the playgrounds of Hagerstown, and more than 2,000 articles made for the most part from discarded materials were on exhibit at the season's end.

A City Plans for Play

By RUSSELL L. KEPLER Playground Director

N 1937 A GROUP of business and professional men and women in Hagerstown, Maryland, interested in the welfare of the city's children, organized a group known as the Hagerstown Su-

pervised Playground Board with the objective of providing for leadship, places for recreation, and worth-while activities for the children and vouth of Hagerstown during the school vacation period. The Board set up standards for playground administration, selected locations for playgrounds, and provided for their financial support. Through the cooperation of the Washington

County Board of Education and the City Park Commission, the use of school buildings and grounds and and park spaces

was secured. Indoor facilities for craft work, as well as outdoor playground space, was arranged for at each of the centers chosen.

The playgrounds have been successful since their beginning, and the past season proved the best experienced thus far. During the summer period of 1940, eight playgrounds were in opera-

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Tether ball was one of the activities most enjoyed by the playground children



The Square Dance Goes to College

Dancing at the University of North Carolina

By DON BISHOP

YOUR GRANDMOTHER enjoyed it and so did her grandmother, so there is nothing new about square dancing. Yet this ancient dance form is capturing the fancy of the collegiate crowd as has nothing since the Big Apple came up from the backwoods of South Carolina.

University of North Carolina students this year have swung into step with the "new" dance sensation with such enthusiasm that its advocates predict for it a nation-wide rise to popularity. The Charleston, the Lambeth Walk, the Big and Little Apples did it, they say, so why not the square dance?

New Yorkers recently were given a preliminary glimpse of what they may soon be doing when a dance team of students from the University demonstrated their version of the dance in the Empire Room of the Waldorf Astoria hotel, which hitherto had witnessed only the more formal styles of dance. Eight student couples were given ten minutes on the program of Kay Kyser, University alumus, whose orchestra was playing at the hotel. Kyser's orchestra furnished jazzed-up rural tunes and the students reeled off several of

their less intricate square dance figures.

Chief local promoter of square dancing is Richard ("Fish") Worley, director of Graham Memorial Student Union, with Dean of Administration, R. B. House as an able assistant in calling the figures. Worley arranged a few small square dances here last spring. When he became Director of the Union he gave them a prominent

"Many colleges are encouraging country dancing. It has been increasingly popular at student conferences the past four years. The State College in Connecticut recently sponsored a square dance festival reaching seventy communities. The Ag. students at Ohio State hold an annual square dance. At Texas U. the Swing and Turn Club has a dressy formal, and the Faculty Square Dance Club at Ohio Wesleyan sets the style for popular campus functions. At Urbana a group of older students are given training to help direct folk dancing at the annual Winter Festival on the campus. At Oklahoma U. there is a large game room used for country dances and it is said to be the most popular spot on the campus. At Berea College there are several folk clubs, and the annual Mountain Folk Festival has spread good music and country dancing to a score of mountain schools."-From American Folk Dances.

place on his entertainment programs, and summer school students held weekly square dances on an outdoor court with string bands furnishing music. Graham Memorial now has its own string band composed of students.

Three dances have been held during the fall quarter, each drawing a larger attendance than the one before it. Some of the students wear barn dance costumes, others do nothing to "pretty up" for the gay, informal affairs. A "Sadie Hawkins Day" was held recently, with square dancing the major feature of the night's entertainment.

Worley teaches and calls all the figures. Some of the figures he uses are: the right hand across, bird in the cage, Georgia rang tang, grapevine twist, four-leaf clover, cowboy loop, ocean wave, grand right and left, wring the chicken's neck, wring the dishrag, and the singing wagon wheel, which is a creation of Worley's. He introduced singing to a revolving star formation and had the couples go through motions that the original dance creators never dreamed of. He frequently makes changes in old forms in order to simplify them. In fact, the dances are really combinations of true square dancing and folk dancing.

In square dancing, four couples form a square, each couple moving from one couple to the other. As many persons as wish to may participate in a folk dance. So Worley combines the two with many couples performing square dance steps. All the time he is calling figures, he sings novel

jinglets:

"Swing on the corner, like swinging on a gate,

Now swing your own if you ain't too late."

Or,

"If that ain't hugging, ain't it a shame?

Break that ring with a corner sling."

Or,

"Swing 'em high, swing 'em low,

Swing that piece of calico."

Or.

"Milk the cow, wean the calf,

Swing your honey a round and a half."

He has an ample stock on hand, but when the occasion arises, he produces a new couplet. Worley has a square dancing background, being from Buncombe County. But he is attempting to interpret the art in a simplified manner that can be understood by

mountaineer, college student and society matron alike.

In the near future Worley will lead a team of Carolina students in a demonstration square dance at High Point. Then the team will teach the dance to the High Pointers. He also plans to visit all Orange County elementary and high schools to teach the dance to the children. They will perform in an annual festival here next spring.

At John Gould Goddard College in Vermont

Skiing in Vermont's snow-covered hills and old-time dancing were friendly rivals for popular favor immediately after Christmas when the Washington County Folk Dance Association brought its summer activities up to date with a three-day school of country dances at Goddard College. And the same spirit pervaded the school as that which prevailed at the annual Vermont Folk Dance Festival held in August on the college campus in Plainfield.

The city ballrooms of the nation have lately adopted country dancing with all the vigor of a new-found diversion, but to this group in Vermont folk dancing is something as old as the early "pitches" when settlers first brought cows into the Winooski valley. And since the attendance at the school turned out to be better than half schoolage youngsters, it is likely that the country dances will remain a form of Saturday night recreation throughout Vermont long after city folks have taken up some new idea.

Assisted by teachers from the Washington County Folk Dance Association, young Vermonters study the old country dances at a mid-winter school at Goddard College

Readers of *Recreation* who are dance enthusiasts will welcome the announcement that the second edition of "Good Morning," the booklet containing music, calls, and directions for more than forty old-time dances as revived by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford and arranged by Benjamin B. Lovett, is now off the press. Copies are available at 50c each from the Association or from the Dearborn Publishing Co., Dearborn, Mich.

Vermont has a set of country dance traditions all its own, and several intricate dances unknown to the rest of the nation. To keep these traditions safe, the Washington County group organized many years ago for the purpose of searching out techniques

and teaching them to other groups gathered solely for amusement. When the group heard that the folks down in Chelsea had a different twist on the *promenade forward* of a *Boston Fancy*, they sent someone down, and now the Chelsea tradition

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A Campaign for Cleanliness in Parks

Among undisputed superlatives in Chicago's formidable list, this city

claims the largest and probably the best system of public parks and boulevards in the world! But the Chicago Park District, not content to rest on such laurels, has inaugurated a campaign to make its parks the "cleanest in the world."

R. J. Dunham, president of the consolidated system since 1934 when twenty-two separate park authorities were united under one jurisdiction, has devoted a great deal of thought to the problem of combating untidiness. The magnitude of this problem, which involves 136 parks and 162 miles of drives and boulevards, a total acreage of approximately 5,337, is evident from the fact that it costs the taxpayers an average of \$150,000 annually to gather and dispose of trash left by careless users of Park District facilities. During 1939, 8,000 truck loads-540,000

cubic feet—of litter were removed from the parks. boulevards, and drives. For the "laid-end-to-end" statisticians, it might be noted that this amount of trash is sufficient to cover nearly twelve acres of land to a depth of twelve inches. Removing litter requires a force of 320 men and a fleet of twenty-eight large trucks.

Early in August the "Anti-Litter Campaign"

was launched. An ordinance, seldom enforced, if ever, was brought forward as an ultimate recourse. It stipulates a minimum fine of \$5.00 and maximum of \$200 for each offense when anyone is caught littering park property with

The story of Chicago's effort to make its parks the cleanest in the world

By GEORGE T. DONOGHUE
General Superintendent
Chicago Park District
Chicago, Illinois



GEORGE T. DONOGHUE

Chicago Park authorities set the pace

terial.

any sort of waste ma-

thorities set the pace in courtesy some years ago by using attractive signs with the legend: "Please save this lawn for summer" instead of the usual brusque "Keep off the

grass." The idea "caught on" and other cities adopted the persuasive style of asking people to spare the grass in its formative stages so they might enjoy it later. When the Park District officials went on the warpath about litter, however, they injected a sterner note. Equally attractive signs were erected, and the appeal was for cooperation: "Help Keep Chicago's Parks Clean! Place paper and all other rubbish in waste containers," but beneath this exhortation is: "Warning! Park District ordinances prohibit littering. Violators are subject to arrest and fine of \$5.00 or more."

More than 12,000 containers were placed through-

out the parks and boulevards for convenience of the public, and efforts were made to provide them in sufficient number to accommodate special areas in which use is concentrated.

So potent was the appeal to civic pride, however, and so excellent the cooperation, that at this writing no arrests have been made. Of course there has been no disposition on the part of the

Division of Police to penalize mere thoughtlessness. Instead, all park employees directly in contact with the public were furnished cards which were printed on both sides with an appeal to help

(Continued on page 753)

The campaign for clean parks described by Mr. Donoghue in this article is merely an extension of the thought which the Chicago Park District seeks constantly to emphasize: "These are your parks," the citizens are told. "Use them and care for them in that spirit."

An April Shower

Guests coming to this party must wear their raincoats and rubbers even though it's sunny. Then they'll be prepared!

ARCH WINDS are having their fling these days, but April showers are waiting just around the corner, and seed catalogues are reminding us hopefully of May flowers. If you're waiting impatiently for those first spring blossoms, why not take advantage of April's offering and plan a spring shower party? This kind of April shower won't dampen anybody's enthusiasm!

From colored construction paper cut small umbrella invitations well spattered with white ink "rain drops." And don't forget to remind the guests that they must come dressed for a shower. It will certainly put them in a mood for your party if they must come trudging along in raincoats and rubbers on a bright sunny day. And then, too, they'll be prepared if it rains before the party's over—as it probably will!

Spring Breezes. As guests arrive and remove rain coats and rubbers, ask them to help the early arrivals blow up some spring breezes.

Teams stand on opposite sides of a table, in the center of which has been placed a ping-pong ball. The object of the game is for each team to blow the ball off the table on the opposing side and to prevent it from going off the table on their own side. Each successful "spring breeze" scores one point.

How's the Weather? When all of the guests have arrived, two circles are formed, men in the outer circle and girls inside. At the signal, the circles start moving, men clockwise, girls counterclockwise. Upon the next signal the marching stops; the men and girls face each other and start talking about that old conversational stand-by—the weather. Another signal starts the circles moving again and the procedure is repeated. This game should move quickly and should not be played for too long a time.

Topics may be announced each time, if desired. The first conversation might be based on the amount of rainfall in the spring as opposed to the autumn. The second might have as its subject the



truth of the statement that "April showers bring May flowers." Even your most weather-minded guest will have trouble keeping the conversations going.

Relay Games

Spring Showers. Any housewife finds that spring showers on wash day are one of life's tribulations. When it rains, in comes the wash and after the shower it has to be hung up again. In this game the party guests will have a chance to follow the footsteps of the housewife on a typical wash day in spring.

Teams stand in single file, lined up behind a starting line. Stretched across the opposite end of the room is a length of cord—the clothesline. In front of the line and opposite each team is a box of clothespins and an improvised "wash basket" in which are several articles reminiscent of the weekly wash. Use your imagination and the results will be hilarious.

Upon the signal, the first person on each team runs up to his respective wash basket, takes out the articles, hangs them on the line with the clothespins, and runs back to the starting point. If an article falls down, however, he must go back and fasten it securely. The second person on each team runs up to the line, takes down the wash, puts it back in the basket and places the clothespins in their box. The game continues until the

winning team finishes first in this uproarious relay. And it deserves to win!

A Walk in the Springtime. The teams again form single files behind the starting line. The first person in each team receives a suitcase. On the signal each one races to the designated goal, opens the suitcase, takes out and puts on a raincoat, sou'wester, and overshoes. Provide buckled galoshes, if any can be found. When he is all dressed and well protected against the spring showers, the player closes the suitcase and sprints back to the starting line. There the next person on his team helps him remove the clothes and put them back in the suitcase. Then the second person takes the suitcase and repeats the procedure. The team whose members first complete their springtime walks is the winner.

Spring Beauties Race. Players once more divide into teams, each group being given the name of a flower. Each "flower family" lines up single file behind its team captain, who stands ready on the starting line. Each person places his hands on the shoulders of the individual directly in front of him, making a solid line. Opposite each team is a designated goal around which they must go.

The leader calls out different events in a series of races and scores the winning team in each case. The first event might be a walking race in which the teams walk up to and around their goals, each team member keeping his hands on the shoulders of the person in front of him. (If a line is broken, it cannot continue until each person again has his hands in the correct position.) The group first returning to its place at the starting point is the winner. Other races in this series might be: running, hopping, skipping, walking backwards.

Sir Walter's Cloak. A man and a girl are selected to represent each team. The men receive two newspapers each. On a signal, the couples progress to the goal line and back again, the man placing the newspaper first under one foot of the girl then under the other, so that she does not have to step on the floor. If the girl steps on the floor, the couple must begin over again. First couple to finish wins.

This game may also be played in relay style. Each team is made up of couples who race to the goal via the paper route and return to pass the paper on to the next couple on the team. The first team to finish wins.

As another variation of this game individual players may compete in team relays or with one person representing each team. The first player is supplied with two small pieces of cardboard. He must stand on one foot on a piece of cardboard, while he places the other piece in position for his next step. Anyone touching the floor with either foot must go back to the starting point and begin again.

Pencil and Paper Games

Rain in Tin Pan Alley. Distribute pencils and a copy of the list below to each guest. If players glance casually at the list, they may think it nothing more than a group of possible titles for "rain" songs. However, upon examining the phrases closely they will discover that every one is composed of two separate sections, each a portion of a title of a well-known song connected with rain. The object of the game is for the guests to unscramble the titles. This list given to them is below on the left, and the unscrambled titles appear at the right.

Listen in the Rain	Listento the Patter of the Rain		
Painting the Rainbow	Paintingthe Clouds with Sunshine		
Singing to the Patter of the Rain	Singingin the Rain		
I'm Always Round My Shoulder	I'm AlwaysChasing Rainbows		
It Ain't Gonna Be Your Umbrella	It Ain't GonnaRain No More		
Over the Clouds with Sun- shine	Overthe Rainbow		
There's a Rainbow Chasing Rainbows	There's a RainbowRound My Shoulder		
Let a Smile Rain No More	Let a SmileBe Your Umbrella		

These songs may be used in group singing at the end of the evening to send guests home in the proper "showery" spirit.

Rain, Reign, Rein. Quite a few words in the English language which have different meanings and are spelled differently are pronounced alike. Ask guests to think up six or more sets of homonyms, each consisting of three words. An example is the title of this game: rain, reign, rein. Others are:

two, to, too	fane, fain, feign
vein, vane, vain	pare, pair, pear
way, weigh, whey	peek, peak, piqu
wear, ware, where	sent, cent, scent

As an alternative, players might list homonym sets composed of two words each. These are some of the sets they might record:

all, awl	heel, hea!	pray, prey
born, borne	lea, lee	straight, strait
bow, bough	mane, main	style, stile
faint, feint	mien, mean	tare, tear
feet, feat	peel, peal	there, their
grate, great	peer, pier	wait, weight
hare, hair	plane, plain	wave, waive

The person with the longest list, in either case, is the winner.

Spring Fever. This very common ailment is often blamed for many peculiar actions, so you can probably lay the blame here for the following pixilated proverbs, sayings, and selections about spring, sunshine, and showers.

Give the guests a list of these verbose phrases and see if they can translate them into ordinary English. Thus, "It is precipitating felines and canines" emerges as the frequently used phrase, "It's raining cats and dogs." See how many of these you can guess yourself:

- Precipitation, precipitation, remove thy immediate presence from this place to some other locality; return upon another occasion.
- 2. Into each term of conscious existence a certain amount of precipitation is required to decend.
- There exists an agreeable condition of the atmosphere on every occasion when congenial companions congregate.
- The object in question descendeth in the manner of soft liquid falling in condensed drops from the region of celestial glory upon the site immediately below.
- 5. The atmospheric disturbances which occur during the third period of lunar revolution, when combined with the sudden precipitatious during the fourth month, produce at the time of the fifth lunar revolution plants esteemed for their blossoms.
- The light produced by beams radiating from the luminous celestial body which is the center of the solar system comes immediately after the steady descent of drops of condensed vapor.
- 7. In my opinion it fails to precipitate ordinary drops of condensed vapor; the precipitation at this time is producing a species of narcissus characterized by large single or double blossoms.
- 8. Oh, to be present in that part of the British Isles which is south of Scotland and east of Wales now that the fourth month of the year has arrived in that vicinity.
- 9. If the season in which the noonday sun shines most obliquely descends upon us, is it possible that the time of the vernal equinox can be very much in the future?

Answers

- 1. Rain, rain, go away; come again some other day.
- 2. Into each life some rain must fall.
- It's always fair weather when good fellows get together.
- It droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven upon the place beneath.
- 5. March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.
- 6. The sunshine follows the rain.
- 7. It isn't raining rain to me, it's raining daffodils.
- 8. Oh, to be in England now that April's there.
- 9. If winter comes, can spring be far behind.

Refreshments

The End of the Rainbow. This search for the end of the rainbow is built around a string maze. Red and white string—or any other two colors—are used. Each man is given the end of a piece of red string; each girl receives the end of a white string. All are to follow their individual strings and find their way through the tangle—to the end of the rainbow. There a girl, for example, would discover that her string joins a red one with an explanatory note. The note says: "Wait for your partner, then go quietly into the next room."

One by one the couples vanish. Finally when the last person untangles his string and joins his partner to hasten into the next room, he finds everybody else already there—waiting for refreshments.

What could be more appropriate for an April party than umbrella favors? Tiny umbrellas can be made by tying a pleated frill of brightly colored paper to a length of pipe cleaner. Bend the other end of the pipe cleaner around to form a base. A little glue on the base will attach the umbrella to a card. A perky bow might be tied on the umbrella handle.

If the guests are to be served buffet style, place a favor on each plate with a slice of "pot of gold" cake (yellow cake). The bowl of punch on the refreshments table might be appropriately labeled "Rain Water."

The refreshments table itself may be covered with strips of colored paper glued together for a rainbow effect. Thus, as spring showers gradually do, this "April Shower" ends with a rainbow.



Center in New York City, from eighty-five to a hundred boys and girls used to eat lunches furnished by the Board of Education and served by girls from the NYA. Then suddenly the Board ruled that the noontime meal should be served at the schools, and the lunches at our Center were discontinued. We now had a problem on our hands—a lunchroom full of green tables and benches which were hardly suitable for a club or game room.

For a long time one of the major problems of the Center had been the hallways where boys and girls hung around talking and loitering with nothing to do. Whenever a staff member tried to clear the hall, the answer was always the same, "Where can we go?" And they were right—all the rooms were in use and these young people had no place to go. They didn't want to go home; they wanted to go where their friends went and do what their friends did—they wanted to listen to music, to read, dance and lounge.

Finally an idea came! Why not make the old lunchroom into a senior lounge, a "hangout" room for all those over seventeen years old? A committee of older boys and girls was set up and a meeting called. They were all enthusiastic, but they soon discovered that the room couldn't be used as it was, crowded with empty tables and benches. The committee wanted a room with a

homey atmosphere, a room with curtains, lamps, rugs and sofas, and they decided to fix it themselves.

A "work day" was proclaimed and the committee reported for duty. Tables and benches were taken out, the room was painted, the floor waxed, and the girls went to work on the curtains. Members of the Board of Directors were told of the scheme and asked to donate furniture. A rug, a few chairs, tables, lamps soon began to arrive and some furniture was taken from other rooms in the Center to make ready for the gala opening party planned by the committee. A meeting of the entire group was held at the party and suggestions were asked from everyone. The most frequent complaint was "Why no music?" or "The room isn't complete without a radio."

This was problem for the seniors. An older boys' council took up the matter and put on a special dance in the gymnasium with profits to be used for a radio. The dance was a success and the new radio was soon installed in its corner. With an admission price of ten cents, dances were continued each Friday evening and attendance soon rose to 400. Some of the proceeds were used for other activities at the Center, but the boys did buy chairs, a sofa and tables for their lounge, and took great pride in their accomplishments.

At first the lounge was open three evenings a week but when the demands grew it was opened



From Lunchroom to Lounge

By
CHESTER L. LARKINS

five evenings each week from 7:30 to 10:00. A member of the staff acts as host or hostess each evening. They provide the players with games and equipment, wander among the groups and often take part in the impromptu discussions.

Soon boys and girls from the soda fountains and the candy store hangouts began to come over. They read, listened to their favorite radio program, chatted with friends or waited for their class or gym period to begin. The increasing requests for table games prompted a committee to purchase a supply of these games and the tables are always in use.

There was a growing need for books and magazines, since the few brought in by members and friends were not enough to supply the demands. Once again a committee was set up, this time to study the library problem. They made up a questionnaire of pertinent questions and circulated it among the members. Do you think books should be taken from the room? Should there be fines? Check your favorite magazine. What kind of books do you like? Would you like to build the bookcases? Do you think the bookcases should have doors and be kept locked? The survey showed interesting results. One of the most heated discussions was over the problem of locking the bookcases. The group finally decided that they were no longer children and could be trusted with the open cases.

Ingenuity and imagination, plus the willingness to work, won for these young people an attractive meeting place at Goddard Neighborhood Center in New York City

Under the leadership of a staff member two Saturdays were spent building bookcases for about 600 books. When completed, the shelves and walls were painted cream and light blue to harmonize with the curtains. Board members had solicited books from their friends, and about 400 books were already waiting to go into the new cases. One board member provided money for a magazine fund and a subcommittee was authorized to purchase weekly and monthly magazines.

Again the committee went into action on the problem of operating the library. Books were classified according to the Dewey Decimal system and everyone was asked to pay an initial fee of five cents for a borrower's card. Magazines and books were to be checked out as in a public library. Fines, length of loans, and renewal policies were debated by the group. The host or hostess and two members of the library committee are responsible for the operation of the library each night. Actual results of the newly-established library cannot be measured yet, but at least these young people are learning to shoulder responsibility and take an interest in their own work.

Every neighborhood or community center needs a lounge, a "drop in" or "hangout" room. If the young people become interested they will enjoy cooperating and many problems of organization and operation will be solved. Careful consideration should be given to the location of such a lounge. We are fortunate in having our room on the second floor and, therefore, out of the way of those who merely pass through the lobby and are so often tempted to stop and loiter at doors that appear inviting. It is next to a small kitchen with a connecting door which, when open, makes an ideal counter from which to dispense refreshments. One entire end of the room is made of folding doors which can be opened to make the room twice as large and provide an excellent place for dancing at special parties.

Now that the abandoned lunchroom at our Center has become such a successful senior lounge, we are working on plans to establish a similar room for younger boys and girls from fifteen to seven-

teen years old.

Joop to the Rescue!

THE PROBLEM of audience courtesy is not restricted to children's theaters, but one theatrical group seems to have discovered a solution for the juvenile branch of the problem at least. The newest champion of the intelligent audience is Joop, the Giraffe, long-necked mascot of Junior Programs, Inc., with headquarters at 37 West 57th Street, New York City.

These non-commercial children's producers, who number among their audiences 1,500,000 young people in the United States and Canada, have adopted Joop as a means of educating children in the rudiments of audience courtesy. The giraffe has become the symbol of the perfect audience—he can make no sound, therefore never shouts, whispers, or coughs; doesn't rattle the furniture; always sees without standing up; rarely needs a drink of water; and is generally peaceful and well behaved.

The original Joop, a former inhabitant of East Africa who was adopted by Junior Programs and christened with milk in 1939, remains in Frank Buck's "Jungleland." But his life-size facsimile appears at every Junior Programs ballet, opera and play to remind the young audience that a Joop Club member is always courteous. Joop is the property of the organization and may be used only in connection with its performances.

When the big giraffe stretches his five-foot neck from behind the curtain in towns and cities throughout forty-six states this season, children from four to sixteen will be getting their lessons in top ranking entertainment as well as in audience courtesy from Junior Programs.

This five year old organization attempts to bring the best in drama, opera and ballet to children of all economic groups. Last year its three traveling companies nearly doubled their itinerary, gave 558

performances before the wide-eyed children of 220 communities, and covered over 80,000 miles from Maine to Florida, as far west as California and north to British Columbia.

Traveling in automobiles and trucks bulging with scenery and stage equipment, more than fifty adult professional performers bring music and drama to children in cities and rural centers. Opera singers, ballet dancers, actors, musicians, lecturers and puppeteers perform for their young audiences under the sign of the long-necked giraffe.

From hundreds of possible manuscripts and books, plays, operas and ballets are selected and adapted by Junior Programs for its child audiences. Its professional entertainers then put the selected work into production, pack it up in trucks and begin their many-week tours. Under the sponsorship of local civic organizations throughout this country and Canada, these productions are offered to children at an average of ten to twenty-five cents, with free admission for the underprivileged child who cannot afford even this price.

Although the organization began as a service bureau and general reviewing medium for children's entertainment, much of the emphasis in recent years has been on its own productions. This season they are not booking directly any lecturers or individual concert artists, although they continue to lend the Junior Program name to some of the shorter programs which have been approved by their advisory committee.

The guiding principles which have resulted in a phenomenal five year growth in this movement are, first of all, that children's productions must be of the highest caliber and suited to the special needs of a young audience, and, second, that sound planning and organization will enable a community of any size to bring the best in professional entertainment to its youth.

With the help of an educational committee, project material is provided for schools in communities where the productions are scheduled.

Many departments and clubs can coordinate this material with their own work and help to prepare the children for appreciation of the programs. Such projects are easily worked out with the aid of special stories, games, dances, art

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"The spontaneous rise and rapid growth in America of a movement guiding children and youth to a knowledge and appreciation of the best in drama, music and the other arts through the voluntary efforts of parents, teachers, university women, and social and civic agencies furnishes a pointed commentary on national cultural development in a democracy."—Dorothy L. McFadden, Founder-Director, Junior Programs, Inc.

Softball—the New American Fever

HEN THE 1940 World's Softball Championships closed in Detroit, Michigan, on September 10th, and the Kodak Park of Rochester, New York, had won the designation of World's Champion (men's division) while the Ramblers of Phoenix, Arizona, had attained the goal of com-

petitive softball among women players, the game of softball had passed through its most successful year of play. More than a half million teams played in games this past year—on sandlots, city playgrounds, athletic fields, and in great parks. In most towns and cities in every state in the Union, leagues and tournaments were organized to provide opportunity for competition that would eventually determine the team to represent that

state in the national championships. And for every team that entered a league to gain cham-

pionship recognition there were twenty teams playing softball for "the fun of the game." Sports writers and officials who are close to the game have stated that more than 10,000,000 players participated in organized games last year and that the fan attendance would reach astronomical figures.

This is softball, baseball's kid brother, the new American fever, the sport miracle, the game that ranges in its demand of skill and ability from the recreative efforts of Lowell Thomas's "Nine Old Men"

By ARTHUR NOREN

Mr. Noren, who is Superintendent of Recreation in Elizabeth, New Jersey, is secretary of the Joint Rules Committee appointed by the National Recreation Association. He is author of Softball, one of the series of books in the Barnes Dollar Sports Library.

lined game which attracts players of the calibre of Ken Keltner of Cleveland and Tommy
Henrich of the New York
Yankees, who came up through
the softball way. It demands
the type of skill and energy
which was demonstrated in
Detroit last September when

to the lightning fast, stream-

Toronto, with Cam Ecclestone pitching, defeated Phoenix, Arizona, I-O, in a twenty-four inning game, the longest tournament game on record. In the last inning, Len Murray, seventeen year old pitching ace of Phoenix, was hurling the ball as fast as he did at the start of the game, hours earlier.

The Modest Beginnings of Softball

Just as the modern automobile, fast, stream-

lined, efficient, popular, has little in common with the original horseless carriage, so does

> softball, as developed today, have little in common with the game which was invented in a gymnasium in Chicago in 1887, taken out into the playgrounds of that city and promoted by the public playgrounds around the country as a desirable outdoor game for play in the small school playgrounds. Some will recall the game as an insipid form of baseball. In many places it was known as kitten ball, mush ball, diamond ball. indoor-outdoor. There was no uniformity in the rules of play, and its importance in the

Softball, starting informally on the playgrounds of America, is now played in all corners of the United States



Courtesy Department of Public Recreation, Reading, Pa.

realm of sport and recreation was negligible.

In certain states, however, the game rapidly progressed, better rules were devised, better equipment was developed by the manufacturers, and a request, so typical in the history of American sports, for a body to promote the game by devising uniform rules and equipment, was presented at a convention of public playground officials in Springfield, Illinois, in 1023. This date marks the start of the development of softball as we know it today. The committee appointed by Joseph Lee, President of the National Recreation Association, was later enlarged to form the present Joint Rules Committee on Softball. The function of this committee has been to secure general acceptance, publication, and wide circulation of a standard set of rules; to study the game in order to recommend changes in rules that would benefit the largest number or players; and, last but not of least importance, to work with the manufacturers of sporting goods to secure standard and satisfactory equipment.

In 1932, attempts were made to form several national organizations for the purpose of promoting and controlling inter-city and inter-state competitions in softball. This game was going through the growing stages that have been typical of our other American sports. The Amateur Softball Association of America soon established its leadership as a responsible sports-governing agency and was recognized by the Amateur Athletic Union. Unquestionably, much of the responsibility for the growth and popularity of softball has been the promotion and direction of city and state tournaments, culminating in the World's Championship series, the sixth of which was held in Detroit last September. In no other team sport do we have the number of teams and individual players enrolled in a competitive program that is directly related to a national championship.

Basically, the fundamentals of softball are the same as baseball, the greatest of our American sports. Batting and fielding strategy are pretty much the same except that because the play of the game is confined to a much smaller area, the action seems to be and probably is much faster than baseball. With the bases only sixty feet apart, spectators are continually thrilled by fast drives, bare-handed stabs and lightning throws. Close decisions are the rule on most plays, and famous double play combinations are known in every softball center. The game is fast, often taking not more than an hour to complete seven

innings of play, and it has developed physical skills that compare favorably with any of our great sports.

Perhaps, the outstanding and distinctive technique in softball is the underhand pitching. American youth has been brought up on the tradition of overhand and sidearm throwing, with amazing accuracy, speed and control. To make certain that batters could hit the larger, heavier ball, the rules provided for underhand pitching, with the result that a slow, loop pitch was common. However, the usual tendency of the American athlete to invent and develop special skills evidenced itself in the realm of softball pitching.

Pitchers like Paul Watson of Phoenix, Arizona, John Baker of Westport, Connecticut, and "Shifty" Gears of Rochester, New York, developed wind-ups that baffled the eye, followed by a throw and release of the ball that traveled with a speed comparable to the overhand hardball. Practice, practice—and a new sport technique had been developed. Amazing speed, spins, hooks, slants and drops. The outstanding pitchers (and their names soon became famous) had taken soft softball from the small playground and made it a major form of competitive sport. The unexpected strength of the pitching has been counteracted to some degree by increasing the distance of the pitcher from the batter's box (now forty feet) and by eliminating some of the tricky, confusing wind-up devices. The Rules Committee is interested in securing a more nearly perfect balance between offensive and defensive play and during the coming year will concentrate on studying necessary steps to achieve this balance.

Softball is now accepted and played in every corner of the United States and has followers in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, and other countries. Great rivalries exist between various states, and the claims to greatness in this sport are made wherever softball followers gather. Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, California have each year sent strong representatives into national competition. The cities of Rochester, New York; Phoenix, Arizona; St. Petersburg, Florida; Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan, are typical points where unusual pitching has been developed, and, combined with excellent fielding and strong hitting, they have produced top flight teams every year.

As each major sport has its heroes whose feats of skill are remembered, so has softball a galaxy

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"Park-Schools"

An Experiment in Cooperative Planning

By ROBERT E. EVERLY and JOHN McFADZEAN

LENCOE is a suburban residential community located on the shore of Lake Michigan, eighteen miles north of Chicago, with a population of 6700. There are nine hundred children enrolled in the public elementary schools. The local school system includes grades from kindergarten through eighth. Beyond eighth grade the children attend New Trier Township High School. The school plant consists of three elementary buildings-North, Central and South-names which seem to emphasize utility rather than history. Two of these buildings (North and South Schools) are relatively new. The oldest and largest building (Central School) was replaced a year ago by a half-million dollar structure.



Courtesy The American City

The amphitheater at North School has been invaluable as an outdoor classroom

At North School

The beginning of the experiment in cooperation between Park and School Boards was at the site of the North School. Adjacent to this school site of approximately four and one-half acres the

Park Board acquired seven and one-half acres of undeveloped property. The members of the two boards then planned how both areas could be most effectively developed in the interest of all persons living in the community. The construction of a new state road passing within one hundred feet of the school building present-

Seven years ago the Park Board and the School Board of Glencoe, Illinois, decided to get together. Some courageous individual had the temerity to suggest that cooperation between these two civic agencies might be an efficient, economical, and intelligent way of doing business. This article tells what happened. The story is told by Mr. Everly, Superintendent of Parks, Glencoe Park District, and Mr. McFadzean, Administrative Assistant, Glencoe Public Schools.

ed a problem of safety. An under pass was proposed and the state cooperated in building one under the main road. An additional measure of safety was provided in the development of a two hundred and fifty car parking area at the rear of the school building. Broken concrete from the old State road was trucked in and used as a base. With the aid of WPA labor the concrete was broken up, rolled, and a top dressing of screenings was applied. The following summer, after the area had completely settled, a contract was awarded to fill all low spots and apply an asphalt finished top. This space now provides

parking facilities for all community activities held at the North School, as well as a safe place for parents to deliver and call for

children. Ample play area has been provided for the school's physical education program and the facilities necessary to meet the community's recreational needs. It should be noted that the smaller children's play areas are separated from playgrounds used by the older children and adults,

> and again safety was the factor that dictated this separation of play areas.

To the northwest of the building is a large athletic field. This area provides ample space for large group games, such as baseball, football, soccer, field hockey, field ball, softball and other similar activities. To provide seating accommodations

for spectators, a weathered-edge stone amphitheater with redwood timber seats was built into a small artificial hill and was entirely surrounded with native trees and shrubs. This amphitheater has also proved to be invaluable as an outdoor classroom.

A fieldhouse constructed by the Park Board houses offices for instructors, lockers, showers, toilet facilities, and a small community room with a fireplace. This room is used by Girl and Boy Scout troops for their weekly meetings. Along the extreme northern boundary of the plot lie the greenhouse, or propagating houses, and the nursery. These are used not only for the very practi-

cal purpose of propagating Park Board shrubs, trees and flowers but they serve as out-of-door laboratories in which the children of the schools may actively participate in work which makes natural science a bit more real for them than does reading about it out of a book.

The concrete tennis courts and sand finished asphalt area to the north of the

school provide wet weather playgrounds. In the construction of the tennis courts careful thought was given

to making them as flexible as possible. The double tennis courts are separated by two shuffleboard courts. Net posts were installed in sleeves, facilitating quick and easy removal for group games. Extra sleeves were installed for volleyball and paddle tennis posts, thereby making the area usable for all types of activities.

At one corner of the Park-School area the Park Board and the Historical Society rehabilitated the first log cabin built in Glencoe. A fourth grade group from the schools, with the cooperation of the local Historical Society, took the responsibility of refurnishing the old cabin. The furnishings include a rope feather bed, a spinning wheel dated 1848, an old cradle and a churn, all gifts from members of the community. Many of these gifts

had to be repaired by the children in the school shop before they became a permanent part of the historic log cabin. Many other things were made or repaired by this group—a copper bed warmer, copper candlesticks, and an afghan and quilt for the bed and the old-fashioned dresses and costumes.

In keeping with the rural and natural atmosphere surrounding the school, six foot flagstone walks connect all areas. The walks are of selected large flagstones and are laid in a sand base with turf joints.

A word, in passing, on the planting of the development. Utmost consideration was given to screening, vistas, and plant material. On the

theory that a school building should be placed in a natural park, the entire area was heavily planted with shrubs and trees indigenous to our locality, thereby screening the school and the play areasfromthe streets and residential district. Hawthorns were used in place of fences. their thorns forming a very suitable barrier from dangerous highways.

However, every long vista was preserved to prevent a "chopped up" condition.



Courtesy The American City

The wildflower sanctuary at South School is bisected by tanbark walks along which the wildflowers are planted in groupings

The South School Project

A similar project is now nearing completion at the South School. The Board of Education and the Park Board again joined forces to develop an out-of-door school and a recreation center which, because of its natural topography and its wooded areas, will be better adapted to school and community uses than the North Park. This plot includes seventeen acres, five of which belong to the schools and twelve to the parks.

A wild flower sanctuary adjacent to the school building is surrounded by a Lincoln rail fence. Turnstiles and up-and-over stiles provide entrance to the tanbark walks that bisect the area. Wild flowers are planted in groupings along the walks.

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It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

Cap'n Bill's Column of Nature-Grams

ADULT EDUCATION. This spring the Worcester, Massachusetts, Natural History Society is offering twelve hobby courses, eleven informational, six formal and four vocational courses. On the front page of the descriptive folder they quote from Dr. Alexis Carrel, "Our national destiny is inseparably bound up with our individual resourcefulness and initiative. . . . Our intellects must be kept supple by discipline."

Astrology is the predicting of human events by the tenet that stars and planets exert an influence on people. The Boston and Cambridge Branch of the American Association of Science Workers reports that it not only lacks every conceivable scientific foundation but that it is psychologically harmful. Recreationists who care about end results will hesitate to encourage horoscopes and occult practices. The complete report will appear in the Scientific Monthly.

Birds. "American Songbirds," M. A. Edey. Random House, New York, 70 pp. \$1.00. Colored illustrations by Fuertes. Excellent for the beginner.

Birds. "Massacred for Millinery," Richard H. Pough. National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York. \$.10.

"Birds of the Grey Wind," Edward A. Armstrong. Oxford University Press, New York, 228 pp. \$3.50. Illustrated. Birds, poetry, and tradition of the wild cliffs of northern Ireland.

"Brashear, John Alfred, Scientist and Humanitarian, 1840-1920." University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 220 pp. \$2.25. A mill worker who became a famous lens maker and university president. A romance that has inspiration. His former home is a settlement house in Pittsburgh.

Cactus Gardens in Miniature. Vic Brown nature-grams that the latest vogue is to cut off

the tops of walnuts or pecans and install cacti, the size of a match. This led to potting plants in cocoanut shells.

Camp Cookery. "Famous Sportsmen's Recipes," Jessie M. De Both, 605 N. Michigan "Nature-Grams" is a monthly service of Recreation, published by the National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Keep abreast of the rapid growth in nature recreation by subscribing to the magazine. Send for a sample copy.

Avenue, Chicago, 96 pp. \$1.00. Dressings, trimmings, and combinations as well as favorite recipes for preparing fish, game and fowl by seventy-two distinguished outdoorsmen.

CCC Camps. These work camps, established in 1933, have helped to develop more than 2,500,000 young men. Will the work camp become a public training institution for youth? Will youth and this program be absorbed by the National Defense Program? For 24-page booklet describing a three year investigation write for "The CCC," American Youth Commission, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Civic Cooperation. The traffic island at Fire Headquarters, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been beautified with flowers. The staff of the Children's Museum launched the project; the Street Department contributed fertilizer; the firemen gave the 700 plants needed and cared for the garden; and thousands of passing citizens enjoyed it. The Museum maintains a winter tree trail at Fresh Pond in cooperation with the City Water Department. It is a part of the Cambridge Public School System and is housed in a building loaned by Harvard University.

Conservation, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

- 1. Excursions. Bulletin 1939, No. 13, 109 pp. \$.15.
- Curriculum Content for Elementary Schools. Bul. 1939, No. 14, 79 pp. \$.15.
- In the Education Program. Bul. 1937, No. 4, 78 pp. \$.10.
- 4. Teaching in Elementary Schools. Bul. 1938, No. 14, 125 pp. \$.20.
- Opportunities for Preparation of Teachers. Pamphlet 90, 13 pp. \$.05.

All but Number 5 are illustrated; all but Number 2 are 1940 publications. All are well worth having.

Flowers. "American Wild Flowers," Cecile Matschat. Random House, New York, 28 pp. \$.50. Colored plates and large colored pictures of nineteen common wild flowers for children beginning to read.

Foresters. Austin F. Hawes, State Forester, Connecticut, asks, "What of the CCC graduates who have acquired a real love of the woods? Will they prosper on war industries and then be thrown on relief?" He suggests that some of these deserving fellows be advanced plans and finances for four room cottages, with subsistence gardens and poultry for their own use. Each forester could have free wood for the cutting. Professor Hawes estimates that eventually the state forest program of 200,000 acres could support a hundred families as state forest residents.

Forest Service Films in production: "Vanishing Herds," wildlife protection; "Blessings of Grass," grazing in national forests; "The Strength of the Hills," fire prevention; "The Forest Ranger at Work." These 16 mm. films are loaned free. Obtain name of state film library, Division of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Gardening Objectives: exercise, financial profit, a good hobby, to beautify, fellowship, sheer joy, awards. Number these motives in the order of importance to you. Now read what Longfellow said, "The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, and doing well whatever you do, without a thought of fame."

Gardens. "Green Enchantment," The Magic Spell of Gardens, R. E. Clarkson. Macmillan Company, New York, 329 pp. \$3.00. A charm book for garden lovers with an historic background of the art.

Handcraft. Toothpick building with household cement is a master hobby. Would you start on an airplane, bridge, ship, windmill, auto or fire tower? Write National Pickbuilder Club, 119 West 57th Street, New York City. Inclose three cent stamp.

Landscaping. "Plantings for Florida Homes." Extension Division, University of Florida, Gainsville. A looseleaf notebook which might help the individual anywhere.

Literature Gem. "Accuse not nature; she hath done her part; do thou but thine!"—John Milton (1608-1674), English poet. Milton had "Nature-Grams" in mind.

Mammoth Cave. Inhabited by aborigines centuries ago. First known to white men in 1799. Called "the great hole in the ground in Kentucky" by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Administered and protected by National Park Service in 1936. New caverns were discovered in 1938. A new five mile

section will be opened to the public in 1942. Remarkable labyrinth of gypsum crystals, massive dam of travertine, believed to be the largest in the world.

Nature Recreation Campaign of the Society of Recreation Workers of America. One hundred thirty-nine have pledged to undertake children's garden plots; ninety-six to sponsor geological hikes; ninety-two to work on a playground museum; eighty-two for guided tours; sixty-one for nature inspired handcraft; fifty to plant vines, to run bird-warehouses for nesting materials, or to make bird furniture. Thirty-six plan to organize skyscraping expeditions. The list then tapers to such intriguing interests as one volunteer for fish hatcheries and nut orchards. Vic Brown is the chief stimulator and enterpriser.

Nature Tonic in the Winter. From J. Otis Swift's "News Outside the Door," World Telegram, January 22nd: "When human folk...ponder on how much longer the war among humans can go on without endangering man's frail foothold on the revolving earth. Millions of periwinkles came as ballast ninety years ago, are multiplying south in billions. Baby oysters, refusing to be wiped out by sewage, are cemented to ledges. Soft-shell clams suggesting New England chowders. Jingle shells, sounding like gold coins when shaken together. On our way back to savagery we can use them for money."

News, Nature. Watson Davis, director of Science Service, Twenty-first and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D. C., has invented a plan that will appeal to those who want to keep up with newest developments in natural science. Each month a new "thing" arrives in a box. A fingerprint set with inkless method, a meteorite sample, sheets to tell the story of polaroid, unusual candy developed from whey by the U. S. Bureau of Dairy Industry, etc. Twelve "things" cost \$4.00. You will have to make the decision—how much is it worth to keep up to date?

Outdoor Recreation Conference. The eighth annual conference, March 13 to 16, 1941, at Massachusetts State College, will be built up under the following sections: golf, winter sports, community recreation, hunting, fishing, forestry, archery, hotels and clubs, horsemanship, nature, gardening, photography, camping, mountaineering, water sports, and a large exhibit. Program is available free on request.

WORLD AT PLAY

Skate Train Leaves New York City On January 11th the New Haven Railroad ran its first skate train from New York City

to Hatch Lake in the Berkshire foothills. The train left New York at 1:30 P. M. and returned at 9:30, permitting five hours of ice sports. Activities consisted of skate sailing; hockey in which impromptu groups from Columbia and New York University took part; speed, figure, and free skating; and ice dancing. There were impromptu contests in ice dancing, school figures, and speed skating. A bulletin issued by the College Skating Club gave information regarding the train and the program, suggested the equipment and clothing desirable, and recommended a number of books to be read before embarking on the adventure. "Come one, come all," urged the bulletin. "Bring back the happy skating days of 1890."

Five Words in This Constitution!

A RESIDENT of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, whose great hobby is birds, was

asked by the Winston-Salem Bird Club of which he is a member to draw up a constitution and bylaws for the club. After much thought he produced a constitution which was adopted by the club. The document contains exactly five words: "To study and befriend birds."

Their Own Governing Board of Control Pupils at Edison School, Altadena, California, have their own governing board of

control of the after-school recreation center at their school, according to the Pasadena Star News. The board, elected by the entire Edison recreation membership, in turn appoints committees to assist in the smooth running of the playground's activities. There are two important committees: the sportsmanship committee which handles the sportsmanship and behavior of boys and girls while on the playground, and the safety and grounds committee composed of two groups—one from the red division and one from the black—with each group serving a week in turn. This committee watches to see that no one climbs fences or backstops, rides a bicycle on the playground, or does anything else

which might result in an accident. The committee also works to keep the grounds as clean as possible, not only through personal effort but by urging others to take pride in the appearance of the playgrounds. So successful has the plan been that similar boards are being considered at other centers sponsored by the Pasadena Department of Recreation.

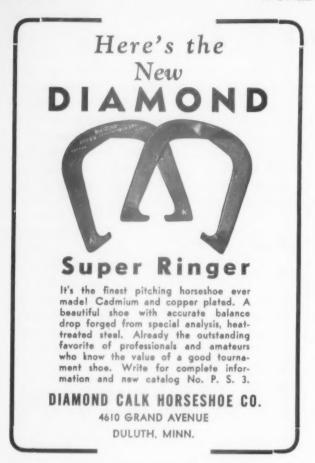
Recreation Program for Florida THE STATE Planning Board and Advisory Council of Recreation, according to the Tampa

Morning Tribune, has approved a five-point program calling for the acquisition of state land taken in under the Murphy Act to be used for state parks; the development of water front park areas; a master plan of recreational areas for the entire state; the establishment of the Everglades National Park; and the enactment of necessary legislation to create a game and fresh water fish department free from political and commercial interference. The Council made plans to draft necessary legislation and submit the program to the 1941 legislature.

New Park District for Michigan THE MANY friends of Dr. Henry S. Curtis, executive secretary of the Detroit-Huron-

Clinton Park & Parkway Association, will be glad to have the word that the bill to provide for the incorporation of the Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority in Michigan, which was submitted to the people for a vote at the time of the last election, carried by a vote of a little more than two to one. This bill permits the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb to join in a metropolitan district for planning, acquiring and operating, either within or without their limits, parks, connecting drives, and limited access highways. It provides for the taxes necessary for these purposes, and for the issuance of self-liquidating bonds for the purpose of acquiring or improving any revenue-producing recreational facilities. It authorizes condemnation of private property for these purposes.

The area involved covers a territory of 3,250 square miles, effects nearly three million people,



and has an assessed valuation of about four billions.

Georgia to Be Host to Park Conference -The Twentieth National Conference on State Parks will be held at Pine Mountain State Park, Georgia, April 21-23, 1941. Mr. Charles N. Elliott, of the Department of Natural Resources, with headquarters at Atlanta, delivered the invitation, first at Itasca State Park on the occasion of the eighteenth National Conference in 1939, and again at the nineteenth Conference, held in Illinois and Indiana in May of 1940. The Georgia Park and Recreation Association will act as hosts. Colonel Richard Lieber, chairman of the Board, has appointed a Program Committee consisting of H. S. Wagner, president; Herbert Evison, Charles N. Elliott, L. S. Trimble, and Harlean James. Herbert Evison has been asked to serve as chairman of the Program Committee. The hosts are planning an interesting series of entertainments in addition to an unusually stimulating program on state park problems.

A post-conference visit to near-by Florida State Parks is being arranged for those who register for it. A Ten Year Old Symphony Orchestra—The Lansing, Michigan, Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year with four concerts. The Symphony Association cooperates with the City Recreation Department, sponsors of the Lansing Unit of the Michigan Music Project. Dr. Pedro Paz is conductor and Donald Dickson, noted young baritone, was first soloist this year. The last of the four concerts is scheduled for April 22.

A Summer Night's Song Festival—Glee club history was made on June 19, 1940, according to the fall issue of The Keynote published by the Associated Glee Clubs of America, when the nineteen clubs of the North Jersey District presented a concert in Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, under the auspices of the Union County Park Commission. The stage, placed on the field in front of the stadium, lighted by groups of high wattage lamps, shone silvery white among the green of the trees and made a charming setting for the great chorus. Four Boy Scout trumpeters sounded "assembly," and the chorus marched in to the strains of Border Ballad. The singing of America by the audience and chorus as the national emblem was slowly hoisted in the blaze of the spotlight brought a memorable evening to a close.

A New Dramatic Service—It has been announced that it will now be possible for Broadway plays to be seen in every city and town of the country through the medium of 16 mm. films. Exact reproductions of plays, filmed with stage technique, will be presented at local non-theatrical showings. These films will be distributed by Theater-on-Film Inc., 729 Seventh Avenue, New York City, which is headed by Joseph Pollak. The company's program for this season will consist of from four to six productions culled from the best of available stage plays. The first production will be "Journey to Jerusalem" by Maxwell Anderson.

"The Country Dancer"—The Country Dance Society, Inc., 15 East 40th Street, New York City, is issuing a quarterly publication known as *The Country Dancer*. The four issues may be secured for fifty cents a year; single copies at fifteen cents. The first issue appeared in November, 1940.

The Tournament of Roses — Nearly forty California communities were represented by floats

Rockefeller Estate Becomes Public Park

A MONUMENT to the Rockefeller family is nearing completion in East Cleveland, Ohio, where a 200-acre tract, once the secluded Rockefeller estate, is being transformed into a public park to be known as Forest Hill Park. The property was deeded to East Cleveland as a gift from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and in addition to the donation of land, Mr. Rockefeller also shared with the city and the Work Projects Administration the cost of the park development.

When completed the tract will include eight tennis courts, a baseball diamond, two bowling greens, a basketball cage, shuffleboards, several children's play areas, a lake for boating, a football field, and a swimming pool. Approximately eight hundred WPA workers are currently engaged in the task of transforming the rolling acres of the estate into the pleasure reservation it soon will be. As many as 1,400 men have been employed at one time since the operation began two years ago.

Everything possible is being done to give the users a maximum of enjoyment and the most up-to-date facilities available. Tennis courts have concrete floors; the boating lake, which covers an area of five acres, is ringed by a system of powerful floodlights which makes possible its use for night ice skating in the winter; a boathouse at one end of the lake constructed of buff stone includes many of the facilities found in the modern club; the bowling greens, 72 by 30 feet, are sodded with a luxuriant growth of bent grass.

Several picnic areas have been provided which are supplied with tables and stone cook stoves, and there are shelters dotted about the park to provide escape from summer showers. A total of nine thousand new shrubs and between five and six hundred trees have been set out, and many thousands of square feet of new sod have been laid.

Most of the facilities of the park will be ready for use the early part of next summer. The park in its entirety, however, will not be formally opened until later.

in the mile-and-a-half procession of the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena on New Year's morning. "America in Flowers" was the theme of the fifty-second annual celebration which formally opens the Winter season in California. This oldest

HE Second Edition of our "GOOD MORNING" manual on early American dancing should be in the library of every teacher and student of physical training, recreation director, community leader, club and summer camp.

The book, with reinforced binding permitting the pages to lie flat when opened, is 7 by 10½ inches and contains music and descriptions of 41 dances now being taught in universities, colleges and public schools throughout America. It includes authentic quadrille music, waltz quadrilles, Lancers, minuet, contra and couple dances, diagrams, and 17 singing calls, the words of which fit the movements of the dance.

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Our first edition of "Good Morning," a textbook on early American dancing, is still available and contains information not included in the second volume. Prices on this edition are the same as those quoted for the second book. In ordering, please mention whether the first or second edition is desired.

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of American folk festivals was started January 1, 1890 as a picnic by a hunt club and has since developed into a multi-community fete. The true spirit of the Tournament is found in the small communities where all the citizens—artists, florists, lumbermen—cooperate to build the floral entry.

Tennis Courts Become Skating Rinks — In Spokane, Washington, the tennis courts have been curbed for ice skating for shallow flooding during the winter months.

A Community Bulletin Board—The Recreation Department of Brattleboro, Vermont, of which Frederick Martin is director, has arranged with a local bank to have a bulletin board in its window with the title, "Community Bulletin Board." The purpose is to make available to local organizations a central place for posting any of their notices or announcements. The responsibility of the Recreation Department in this connection is that of keeping the items up to date.

The first contribution of the Recreation De-

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partment was a display of snapshots tracing the activities of Brattleboro's new Recreation Department. The pictures began with the first activities sponsored by the Department to the present winter sport and community center programs. A sign was placed on the board with the title, "The Year in Review-Recreation Department."

A Travel Contest—The Instructor, the Schoolroom Activities Magazine for Elementary Teachers, is offering awards for the best letters of approximately five hundred words on "Where I Should Like to Go on My Vacation This Yearand Why." The contest is open to teachers who are engaged in the practice of their profession or who are qualified applicants for a position; to superintendents, principals, supervisors, school librarians, or anyone engaged in executive or secretarial work in the schools. The closing date of the contest is June 10, 1941, and awards will be made by July 1st. For full details address W. D. Conklin, Travel Editor of The Instructor, Dansville, New York.

Safety in Kite Flying-Just a reminder. Kite flying contests will soon be scheduled at all county playgrounds. Hundreds of youngsters will be making and flying kites. Some playgrounds offer ideal kite flying conditions, being free from trees and high power lines. Other areas are surrounded by telephone poles and electric lines. Directors should keep in mind the importance of safety in kite flying, instructing youngsters to keep away from telephone and high power lines during practice and contests. From Department of Recreation, Los Angeles County.

"Your Sport"-With this title a new "magazine of playing sports" has appeared. It is being issued, according to the publisher, Graham C. Thomson, for people who work hard in an office all day long and want to play hard in their time off. It is designed to tell about the many games and activities which can be played and enjoyed with a minimum of cost and inconvenience. The first issue. Winter 1941, contains information on such subjects as army sports, swimming, fencing, winter sports, game room sports, roller skating, bowling, sports photography, and sport films. The issue is profusely illustrated. The subscription rate is \$1.00 a year for four issues. Further information may be secured from Mr. Thomson or Hugh Beach, editor, at 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

Audubon Junior Clubs - The coming of spring brings to mind many things associated with nature, among them the Audubon Junior Clubs sponsored by the National Audubon Society in the interest of conservation. These clubs are designed to supplement school science programs and to add zest to nature study. Ten or more children of any age may enroll in a Junior Club, elect officers, and plan their own programs, adapting them to their own interests and geographic location. A teacher or other adult serves as adviser. The National Audubon Society supplies its junior members with bird membership buttons, introductory bird study material and, through its junior paper, suggestions for club activities. Over six million children have been enrolled. Further information may be secured from the National Audubon Society at 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

In Union County's Parks-The 1939 total attendance of 3,099,257 in the parks of Union County, New Jersey, exceeds by more than 400,000 the previous record established in 1938. The attendance for organized activities, which is recorded separately for participants and spectators, shows that 358,896, or nearly 90 per cent of the total increase, occurred for active participation in various sports, establishing a ratio of 60 to 40 for participants and spectators. A combined total for the winter sports months of January, February, and

December shows almost 300,000 visits to the parks, more than double the number recorded for the same period of 1938. The foremost popular activities on the list of fifty shown in the attendance report were children's play on regular park playgrounds, baseball, softball, and picnicking.

Softball—the New American Fever

(Continued from page 736)

of stars, each of whom has his ardent supporters. Harold Gears of the Kodaks; Lou Abreo of the Diesels of Peoria; Ecclestone of Toronto; Vera Vining of Cleveland; Len Murray of Arizona; these are some of softball's Hall of Fame.

In the Days Ahead

And what of softball in the immediate days ahead. There will be more games of softball played this year than ever before. It will peculiarly meet the recreation needs of the thousands of men in our army training camps. The desire for mass participation in athletics and the limited facilities available will make softball the leading sport in our camps.

With a greater citizen interest in physical well-being, thousands of men and women below or above the draft age will want to play softball for health, for fun, for physical fitness. Recreation directors in industrial communities will stress the value of the game as a safety valve for release of emotional and physical tensions. Labor unions, churches, fraternal organizations, playgrounds and park groups, all are interested in this game which for young and old, for novice and expert, and for every cross-section of social strata, exemplifies the democratic way of playing together.

Softball, a definite product of our city playgrounds, is the American way of mass play.

A City Plans for Play

(Continued from page 725)

tion for a period of seven weeks. Two of these centers were for preschool children only, one for colored children, and five for children of all ages. Boys and girls were urged to attend the playground nearest their homes. At all the grounds there was a total registration of 2,359 children and young people of all ages ranging from three to twenty years. Of this number 1,370 were boys and 989 girls. There was a total attendance of 35,357 on all the grounds.



A major portion of the financial support was secured from city and county funds and the remainder from private contributions. The growing success of the program has been largely responsible for the generous financial support given by these agencies.

The daily program included games, music, story-telling, and dramatics during the morning sessions, and handcraft in the afternoon periods. Eighteen trained leaders were in charge of the activities which were offered daily between the hours of 9:00 A. M. and 4:00 P. M. To build up closer cooperation among the children of the various grounds, an interplayground game schedule in dodge ball, softball, and volleyball was introduced. Elimination tournaments were held in various individual and group games at each ground. Winners from each center in the different events competed at the all-playgrounds field day held the end of the season.

To secure adult support and make possible additional activities for the children, feature nights were held weekly at each playground. Five different types of events were scheduled including baby shows, pet shows, doll and hobby shows,

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masquerades and lantern parades, and folk dancing and stunts. To increase participation in these events ribbons were awarded at the various programs which were attended by more than 6,000 people. To climax the summer activities each playground held a handcraft exhibit.

The playground program in Hagerstown is enjoying a steady growth, and with the continued support the work is now receiving a splendid development is assured.

At John Gould Goddard College

(Continued from page 727)

is known throughout Vermont. During the year the group stands ready to send teachers, equipped with phonograph records and source material, anywhere in Vermont to teach country dancing a free service that arises from a genuine love for the dance.

Throughout the year the group has bi-weekly dances at some small hall or farmhouse in Washington County, where the program is part recreation, part study. Every summer they call out competing teams from all over the state, and the lawn tennis court at Goddard College is the stage where men in white trousers and girls in peasant skirts and aprons strive to win the big silver cup. A couple of thousand Vermonters and summer visitors come to watch and applaud Money Musk, Hull's Victory, Merry, Merry Milkmaids, and dozens of similar dances done in the correct Vermont fashion.

Last summer the rising interest in this form of dance brought many out-of-staters, and Goddard College followed this success with the offer to sponsor a winter school with dormitory facilities for those coming from a distance. Emerson Lang of Danville directed the school, and its success assures annual repetitions.

Softball for Oldsters

A PROGRAM OF SOFTBALL which appeals to all ages was in operation in Columbia, Missouri, during the summer of 1940, according to Kenneth Osman, Director of Recreation. Hundreds of adults, forty and fifty year old "veterans" who formerly sat on the side lines and cheered the younger players, donned their athletic togs and took part on the modified softball program sponsored by the Recreation Commission.

Twenty-two organization-sponsored teams played a total of 250 games under the lights at the city softball park during the past season. Fraternal orders, business establishments, and independent organizations had teams in the softball leagues.

Just one league composed of six teams whose players were chosen from the city at large engaged in the speedy brand of ball with a twelve inch sphere. The rest of the clubs enjoyed what might be called a "fun and fumble" game, played with a fourteen inch ball. No stealing is allowed in this game, and the slow pitch is used. The game has inexhaustible recreational opportunities since there is little likelihood of a batsman striking out, and the importance of pitching is reduced to a minimum.

Individuals who never participated in softball of the fast-pitch variety are now getting lots of fun out of the same game with modified rules. Since the ball must prescribe an arc in its course from pitcher to catcher, the player seldom fails to achieve a hit of some kind, although a few strike-outs are registered, much to the amusement of hundreds of fans who attend the "slug" fest.

Players in these leagues think as much of their batting averages as seasoned professionals and contribute to the maintenance of a bureau of statistics, the purpose of which is to keep averages up to date and official. In some of the games played during the summer as many as thirty runs were totaled between the respective clubs, and errors were quite frequent since the fourteen inch ball is extremely elusive.

A base runner cannot steal, and any advance other than that resulting from a base on balls is made at the player's own risk. The base runner is permitted to attempt an advance on an unsuccessful hit and run play, and may return to the original base without risk of being put out, provided he makes contact with the base he is seeking to reach. These are the only two playing rules

that differ from those used in the faster brand of softball.

An added feature to the season of 250 games is an all-star game between the National and the American Leagues in mid-August and the concluding exhibition, a three-game little world series in September between the respective league winners. Both events attract large groups, and a perpetual trophy was put into circulation in 1939 as a donation from a team in the leagues.

Recreation directors in communities facing a decline of interest in softball because of the shortage of hurlers of top ability to staff their fast-pitch leagues will find this game of special merit. Officials will also find their pitching delivery interpretations considerably lessened and umpiring comparatively simple.

Awake and Sing!

(Continued from page 723)

In New York City alone there appeared in public concerts last season approximately fifty different amateur choral organizations totaling nearly 5,000 singers. As a music critic I have access only to figures concerning choruses which gave concerts of sufficient importance to appear in newsprint. How many more amateurs are singing in volunteer choirs or in little-known groups around this great city one may only guess. In any case it's a lot of people singing, and all for the fun of it. There must be something in it.

The fact remains that there is something important in it for anyone who can sing, no matter what his musical tastes. Some groups specialize in ancient and long-neglected liturgical music; others in the extremely modern pieces, and still others in the best-known classic masterpieces and popular favorites. There are organizations of dozens of nationalities, each singing its own national music.

The reasons why choral singing has become such a favorite American diversion are manifold. First, this continent in general, and the big cities in particular contain people of every race and creed thrown together in what it is now unfashionable to call a "melting pot." For these people, each thinking and speaking according to his particular background, music is, as Wordsworth called it, the "universal language." With music as a common cause, persons from every profession and every social level come together to meet on a friendly basis.

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In Vermont there is a State Symphony Orchestra in which forty of its sixty members are amateurs, eighteen of them women. I am told it is a good orchestra, but to me the chief importance of this organization lies in the fact that stenographers, mail carriers, housewives and barbers come from all parts of this dignified little New England state to express themselves through music. They meet in weekly rehearsals, and the rest of the loyal Vermonters turn out to hear the concerts.

Music is a thoroughly democratic institution and, like religion, is no respecter of persons. Not long ago I attended a choral concert of quite highbrow music in New York's Town Hall. My companion, who knew most of the members of the chorus, pointed them out to me: "The gray-haired gentleman in the third row is president of the Trust Company. The tall Irish fellow next to him pushed a wheel chair at the World's Fair all last summer. That round-faced lady in the back row is the manager of a big musical agency; that's one of her typists just back of her."

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If you sing a tune you can easily be shown how to sing a part to it. At first it will be sufficient to learn by ear. Some choral directors are fussier than others, but many require no experience at all. A good director can teach you a lot about music if you are willing to learn. But you must get in there and do it and it will surprise you how quickly you will catch on.

"What will it cost?" you ask. Nothing more than your time. A few very social organizations charge dues to limit their membership. Sometimes small fees are asked to pay for the music but they are usually extremely modest. In any case it's much cheaper than going to the movies and infinitely more spiritually satisfying. Wake up and start singing!

All-Weather Hiking

(Continued from page 717)

Emily's impersonations; Dick's patience in trying to snap a butterfly; a little chipmunk; Art's canteen; a slippery creek bed; 'No smoking in the woods, please'; Florence's good nature; songs; Harry, our ever present president; bird calls, including that of the Orville bird; the delicious odor of a peppermint patch; the Mueller brothers and their efficient planning of hiking club parties; Hildegarde's 'Fare, please'; the chorus on the bus; lunch outdoors; the crossing of streams with and without exciting adventures; hot coffee; that tired, healthy feeling; the return to the city—'So long, see you in two weeks!'"

Evening hikes in Buffalo parks and occasional excursions to other territory have been arranged—to Angel Falls, to Pipe Creek Glen, Emery Park, Letchworth Park, Olean Rock City, and a two day trip in Allegany State Park. Best attended, however, are the trips to the ever appealing hills of Holland. Though thirty miles from the city, their call is sufficient to assemble a gallant band of early risers whenever the bus is chartered.

Recreation for February

The February issue of Recreation containing information regarding the recreation activities of federal agencies and national organizations has aroused much interest and many individuals have ordered additional copies. As the supply is now very limited we suggest that if you wish extra copies you send us your order at once.

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

The Camping Magazine, January 1941

"The Role of the Summer Camp in National Defense" by C. Walton Johnson

"Care of Food and Equipment on Trips" by Barbara Ellen Joy

"Summer Camp Insurance" by Norman N. Godnick. Discussion of fire insurance

Camping World, January 1941

"National Defense and Its Effect Upon Camping" by Robert C. Marshall "Rainy Day Programs" by Martha J. Wrotney

Children's Institutions, January 1941

"Through Play to Cure" by Elsa Dudenhoefer. The play phase of occupational therapy

The Journal of Health and Physical Education, February 1941

"Rockefeller Estate Becomes Public Park" by Donald Cameron

"Approach to Dance Composition" by Elna Lillback
"The Next Trend in Skiing" by Harold M. Gore
"The Use of Visual Aids in Teaching Tennis" by
Florence L. Hupprich

Junior Arts and Activities, February 1941

"Safety is Ours If We Learn Safe Play" by Hazel Morrow Dawson "Building a Rhythm Band" by Louise B. W. Woeppel

New Jersey Municipalities, January 1941

"How Municipal Development Can Aid Defense Preparedness" by W. Phillip Shatts

Parks and Recreation, January 1941

"Establishing and Maintaining Ice Rinks" by George B. Caskey

Service Bulletin (National Section on Women's Athletics of the American Association For Health, Physical Education, and Recreation), January 1941

"Dryland Skiing" by Helen B. Lewis "Co-Recreation at Noon Hour" by Dudley Ashton

PAMPHLETS

Areas Administered by National Park Service: Informa-

National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Children's Vacation Camps Served by Recreation Project Work Projects Administration, Recreation Project, 49 Fourth Street, San Francisco, Cal.

A Directory: Facilities for the Hard of Hearing and the Deaf in the State of New York

Temporary State Commission to Study Facilities for Hard of Hearing and Deaf Children and Adults, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City

Educational Policies for Community Recreation

Educational Policies Commission, 1201 Sixteenth

Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., price \$.10

Family Life, Parenthood and Young People's Relationships: A Selected Book List The Federal Council of Churches. 297 Fourth Avenue, New York City, price \$.15



HILLERICH & BRADSBY COMPANY, Incorporated, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCK

The First Quarter Century of the Town Forest in Massachusetts. Bulletin No. 163 Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, 3 Joy Street, Boston, Mass.

How to Build a Bluebird House by W. H. Hoffstot W. H. Hoffstot, Borroughs Nature Club, 14 East 55th Street, Kansas City, Mo.

A Manual of Cookery: For Boy Scouts

Home Economics Department, Kellogg Company,
Battle Creek, Mich.

Next Steps in National Policy for Youth
American Youth Commission, American Council on
Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C.

Radio and the Classroom

Department of Elementary School Principals, National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., price \$.75

Trail Cookery: For Girl Scouts

Home Economics Department, Kellogg Company,
Battle Creek, Mich.

Winter Sports Round-Up 1940-1941
United States Travel Bureau, National Park Service,
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the State Commission of Forestry, Columbia, S. C.; The Wisconsin Union, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; WPA Recreation Project, New Bedford, Mass.; Laskiainen Yearbook, Leisure Education Department, St. Louis County Rural Schools, Virginia, Minn.

JUST OUT -

Two More Air Youth Books

BUILDING AND FLYING : MODEL AIRPLANES

This complete handbook tells everything you want to know about building and flying all kinds of model planes. It also covers atmosphere and weather, games and contests, and contains specifications for five models developed by Air Youth of America.

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YOUTH IN AVIATION

This manual for leaders of junior aviation groups explains how to direct and organize youthful enthusiasm and energy into active aviation clubs, how to plan a program of aviation activities. A great part of the book is devoted to an outline of the leader's part in supervising model building projects.

Illus. \$2.50

Published for AIR YOUTH OF AMERICA by
D. APPLETON-CENTURY COMPANY
35 West 32nd Street . New York

Joop to the Rescue!

(Continued from page 734)

work, bibliographies of phonograph music and books.

"Robin Hood" has been added to the repertoire. of the ballet company for the first time this year. Old English music and authentic folk dances are combined with ballet and modern forms in a dance-story of the exiled British Earl who illegally befriended the poor. Also on the program is "The Adventures of Puck," a ballet adaptation of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" which becomes a merry synthesis of poetry, music, comedy and dancing.

The thirty-week schedule of the group is the longest of any professional ballet company performing this season. Record attendance to date for any single performance of the entire organization was reached when 7,000 children packed a hall in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to see the "Pinocchio" ballet.

The newest play, "The Emperor's Treasure Chest," deals with South Americans. Especially

written for Junior Programs, it is the story of old and new Brazil and is offered in cooperation with the Columbia Broadcasting System's American School of the Air as part of the United States program of good will toward our hemisphere neighbors. During their five-month tour the Junior Programs players will also present "Run, Peddlar, Run," a story of New England in 1730 with the life and customs of colonial times mirrored in the adventures of two young immigrants.

Special techniques are employed in adapting these productions for the audiences. Many of these techniques are unique with the Junior Programs. An elastic directorial approach is required since the interest of the children must be held constantly, and a high pitch of excitement and suspense is retained from curtain to curtain. Just as the drama technique is incorporated into opera and ballet to heighten the interest and entertainment value, so opera and ballet forms are used in the plays.

The schedule for the opera company this year includes the Russian fairy tale "The Bumble Bee Prince" and a new American work "Jack and the Beanstalk." Eighty performances of "Jack and the Beanstalk" exceed by two and a half times the booking on a single operatic production of any other professional opera company in one season. In the past the high record for a single professional production in the United States was thirty-five performances.

Already this privately-supported philanthropic organization and its three traveling companies have brought high calibre opera, ballet, drama and concerts to more than 3,000,000 children. For the first time in their lives many boys and girls have seen "real live" actors and dancers performing behind the footlights. Yet the director of Junior Programs admits that there is much more to be done.

Junior Programs, Inc., has proved that a real need exists, yet the group has been able to reach only two per cent of the children in the country. Many millions of children still have never sat awe-stricken as a slowly-opening curtain revealed fairy tale people come to life, or watched a graceful dancer put meaning into music. These are the children Junior Programs directors and entertainers are trying to reach as they expand their program and add to the fleet of trucks bringing good fun and good art to the children for whom "only the best is good enough."

A Soda-Pop Night Club

SODA-POP NIGHT CLUBS have been springing up throughout North Dakota ever since the civic-sponsored Dry Dock in Bismarck proved so successful last summer. Recreation leaders in three other cities have already copied the dry night club venture of the capital city and found it profitable.

A "nothing-stronger-than-pop" club was the final effort of community-minded citizens to find inexpensive but wholesome recreation for the young people of Bismarck. As in other communities, city leaders were constantly confronted with the need for a place where economy-wise youth could fine good, spontaneous entertainment.

Then someone suggested that everyone could have fun at a civic night club where admission was only ten cents and the strongest drink was pop. Some people ridiculed the idea since an attempt to set up a community club in 1939 had failed, but the Recreation Board went ahead with their plans, and on Friday night, June 28th, the club opened in the big World War Memorial building at the capital. Two hundred and seventy-five "first nighters" from nine to fifty years of age danced to the rhythm of a music master until twelve o'clock.

Patrons of the club continued to increase, and by the first of October over 1,000 people were attending the weekly dance sessions. The floor has become so crowded that the evening is now divided into two sections with youngsters under thirteen dancing between seven and nine o'clock, and older people on the floor from nine to midnight.

The Dry Dock is a typical night club with few changes. Fun-seekers may reserve tables in advance, but admission is only ten cents a person. Tables are scattered around the dance floor in orthodox club style and a "soft" bar is placed near the orchestra stand. Patrons may help themselves or be served with milk, pop, ice cream, candy, hamburgers and hot dogs. Dancers may come in couples or alone.

Floor shows are a feature attraction at this civic night spot. Dance contests, specialty dances, and mimic sessions give the Dry Dock a night club atmosphere, and an orchestra has now taken the place of the music master in the self-supporting, but non-profit club.

The Dry Dock was intended to run only through the summer months, but the experiment has proved so popular that it is being continued indefinitely. High school boys and girls and college students home for vacation were its most persistent patrons



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during the summer, although younger and older folk could always be seen watching the fun or dancing. Parents were especially urged to attend and many of them have become regular visitors.

The night club is directed by George Schaumberg, city recreation director and high school instructor. The city's Board of Recreation, made up of representatives of the City Commission, the Park Board and School Board, is sponsoring this civic club where the boys and girls of Bismarck have discovered that it can be fun to drink pop and dance on a dime.

"Park-Schools"

(Continued from page 738)

Hickory logs with the common and botanical names of each variety burned onto the face of the logs are to be placed in these groupings, enabling the youngsters to become familiar with these plants. A pool and bog gardens complete this naturalistic spot.

The athletic field, because of its naturalistic

surroundings, should be mentioned. Mounds are built to encircle the field and are being heavily planted to provide natural barriers. Facilities for spectators were developed on the mounds similar to those mentioned at the North School: i.e., stone and timber were combined to create a small amphitheater.

Again, the smaller children's apparatus area is separated from the games area, and the resurfacing of this apparatus area is noteworthy: tanbark and asphalt were mixed to form a resilient yet firm surface. This is an experiment that may help solve the dangerous problem of play area surfacing. The tennis courts and all connecting six foot walks are asphalt with a sand finish.

The third and final phase, the largest of all, is now under way. A combined elementary and junior high school building is being built on the grounds where public subscription has already erected a splendid community auditorium. When completed, these buildings will be as one, surrounded by ten acres of school and park property, developed jointly by the Park Board and Board of Education. This project is still in the planning stage and the tentative plan as shown herewith is an attempt to develop an ideal design for an elementary and junior high school building. We believe this project is of such scope as to warrant a separate article at some future date.

In each instance, whenever school property has not been adequate, the Park District has acquired property adjacent to the school grounds and, in the subsequent development, park and school property lines have been ignored. Every consideration has been given to the development of each area in the attempt to make each a unit designed to meet the recreational needs of the community and to serve the educational demands of the school. The aesthetic and utilitarian have been blended to the benefit of the entire community.

The assessed valuation of property adjacent to our Park-Schools has actually increased, whereas the tendency throughout the nation indicates a decrease of property values adjacent to schools.

A further step in community cooperation is now being planned whereby all care and maintenance of school grounds will be under the supervision of the Superintendent of Parks, assuring better maintained and developed school grounds at a lower cost to the schools.

An Industry Encourages Hobbycraft

By J. EARL RUTHARDT

The statement is frequently made that high speed and mass production of almost everything are resulting in a woeful neglect of things made by hand. There are, however, manufacturing plants which are making it possible for their employees to have the thrill which comes with creative achievement. One of these is the Textile Machine Works of Reading, Pennsylvania, the country's largest manufacturers of full-fashioned knitting machines, which by encouraging hobbycraft among its workers is contributing its bit toward keeping the art alive as well as furnishing the means through which employees may indulge their love for handcraft.

Some years ago the company created a separate department, or workshop, where apprentices received special training in various phases of the machinist's trade through voluntary attendance after working hours and on Saturday mornings. With materials and blueprints provided by the company they made tools of their own choice valuable to them in their trade.

To add zest to the project the program was extended and the boys were encouraged to make other articles such as lamps and ash trays. An apprentice may make any article and as many as he wishes, provided he can complete them in the allotted time. He pays only for the actual materials used in construction. The management furnishes the equipment, tools, original designs and leadership for making the projects.

Each apprentice is permitted as much freedom as he wishes in applying his own ingenuity to his selected project. For example, one of the most unique articles made recently was a lamp constructed from the required filing projects of apprentice training. The filing requirements included a cast iron cube, a square flat piece of steel, an elongated hexagonal piece of steel filed from a round bar of steel. These pieces were put together by one enterprising apprentice to make a very attractive lamp of modernistic design.

The value of these articles does not lie in the fact that they may be more beautiful than those purchased but rather in the "hand-made" appeal. In the light of actual experience in thought-provoking and manipulative skill the handcraft group is highly important.

Not only do the company's two hundred and more apprentices participate in these handcraft projects, but other workmen have also been admitted to the group.

Each year, a few weeks before Christmas, the articles are exhibited in the Company's main machine shop. The boys' families, relatives and friends visit the exhibit to see what they have made. In many cases father and mother have a prevue of their Christmas presents. An orchestra composed of apprentices usually enlivens the occasion with music.

The list of articles made and exhibited by the boys include many types of desk, bridge and floor lamps; various holders, stands and vases; telephone tables and stools, book ends, magazine racks, andirons and other articles, all of excellent workmanship. New projects this year were hand-hammered pewter and copper ware, silver rings, bracelets, pins and necklaces.

That the Company's plan is successful is evidenced by the fact that each year finds the apprentices with a more varied group of articles and with greater enthusiasm for individual projects.

A Campaign for Cleanliness in Parks (Continued from page 728)

keep the parks clean. When a park workman observes an infraction of the ordinance, he merely hands the offender one of these "courtesy cards." This maneuver rarely meets hostility. Usually there is immediate and smiling compliance. In rare instances there is an annoyed frown—but nobody has the effrontery to drop the card except into a waste container!

While the signs and courtesy cards were making an impression, the newspapers and numerous civic organizations helped publicize the movement which widened to include all public property and elicited widespread expressions of approbation.

Every one of the more than 3000 Park District employees has been made conscious of responsibility toward the campaign, and of his duty to participate actively not only by setting a good example of neatness but by giving thought to the subject and making suggestions. As the result of one foreman's suggestion, large manufacturers of candy, ice cream and chewing gum were asked to print anti-litter slogans on wrappers. To date, five companies of national reputation have agreed to do so and are otherwise giving encouragement to the movement.

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A Notable Anniversary

(Continued from page 724)

and others include physical examinations in their routine. Dental service was provided more than 15,000 boys last year; and vocal groups, orchestras, brass and rhythm bands, fife, bugle and drum corps, and harmonica groups attract boys musically inclined. During the summer more than two hundred clubs conduct camps, attended last year by 36,000 boys. Savings banks helped 5,000 boys save their pennies to buy worth-while articles rather than spend them in a street corner gambling game.

All of these boys' clubs are federated in an organization known as the Boys' Clubs of America, Inc., with headquarters in New York City.

have been distributed to children through Park District field houses and the public and parochial schools. Children receiving the buttons sign pledges to wear them and to help keep public property free from litter. All park employees also are wearing the buttons, which have done much to make the entire city aware of the demand for neatness. Bulletins of a chatty nature keep the employees posted on progress, giving them a medium through which to offer suggestions and comment.

Marked improvement in general appearance of the parks was evident almost immediately after the campaign began, especially in such areas as the Grant Park band shell where night public concerts were held from June 1st to Labor Day, and at Soldier Field, in Burnham Park, scene of many special events attracting thousands to the great stadium.

Mr. Dunham has expressed gratification, but also has warned that a city-wide habit of neatness regarding use of public property cannot be achieved except by long-term methods. He said:

"Chicagoans are quick to respond when any

worthwhile public service is asked of them, but I think our best help in this work of keeping the parks and other public grounds clean will come from the schools. Children who join the Anti-Litter clubs and enter into the spirit of this movement will become adults to whom disposing of trash properly will be instinctive. Their children, in turn, will be reared in the tradition of cleanliness and consideration of their fellow citizens. Effective as it has been at the outset, the Anti-Litter campaign is one in which we must take the long view. The effort must extend over a period of years until no Chicagoan would drop a piece of waste paper on a public street or lawn any more than he would drop it on a carpet in his own home."

Table Tennis Versus Ping-Pong

(Continued from page 720)

The geography of the gym is ideal inasmuch as the front row of the stands is fully eight feet from the floor giving an amphitheater effect. The program calls for the following schedule.

Monday. The conduct of six league matches.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Town championships in the following divisions: men's singles, boys' singles, women's singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles.

Friday. Exhibition matches between Sandor Glancz, former world's doubles champion, and Laszlo Bellak, four times runner-up for world's single title and United States singles champion in 1937 and 1938.

On the first four evenings of the week the six tables are in constant use from 7:30 to 11:00 P. M. On Friday night five tables are removed leaving one in the center of the floor which is lighted by four reflected electric lights. Most of the other lights in the gym are turned off and this gives a picturesque effect. Bellak and Glancz bring with them two state champions and the four players give such a demonstration of hard-running perfection that you turn to the five hundred spectators and mutter, "ping-pong, eh?" When you go home that night it is with the knowledge that you no longer have to champion the game.

The season is finished but you know that problems face you in the future. Table tennis requires plenty of "back space" and the ordinary cellar doesn't provide for that. You know that a roomy, central location is essential. This will eliminate the splendid social intercourse involved in the former set-up but it may serve to introduce a more relaxing spirit of good fellowship. Of course you will probably organize a league for cellar ping-pong. You know as well as the next recreation worker that ping-pong is to table tennis what auction bridge is to contract, that all are types of wholesome leisure-time activities and as such should be fostered. On the list for future planning, the organization of a women's league is a "must," and a "husband-and-wife" league a possibility.

You furthermore feel that table tennis may not be faring as favorably in other communities so you write an article like this.

A Social Dance Club

(Continued from page 721)

spent the early part of the evening at places where liquor is served.

The boys and girls are behavior-conscious and are critical of those who do not act as ladies and gentlemen. It is now possible to control the behavior problem by suspending a member's card for a period of time, or by canceling his membership. The plan makes for a more enjoyable evening for those attending and for those conducting the dances

Belonging to the Dance Club has become a privilege that very few of the members care to have taken away.

The Frank H. Ball Playground

(Continued from page 703)

in the ball ground. Now and then she made a helpful suggestion which was immediately put into effect. One evening the citizens of Fresno picked up their evening papers and were startled to read of Mrs. Bessie Ball's sudden death. Much of her property was willed to various public and charitable organizations. At the head of the list, the largest bequest of all, was \$25,000 for Frank H. Ball playground facilities, and particularly for a swimming pool.

Soon after \$5,000 of the bequest had been paid in from the estate, a CWA project was set up, and soon a fine swimming pool was completed. Then SERA followed with a project which provided dressing rooms, shower house, and the overhauling of a building for administration purposes. The swimming pool set-up is valued at about \$15,000. (The children say it is worth a million!) A hard-surfaced tennis court was also constructed about this time for the most part with CWA labor and funds.

When still more funds had come in from Mrs. Ball's bequest, the pool and the softball grounds were lighted for night use, as was the small children's corner.

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Some \$17,000 still remained in the fund. A recreation building was wanted, but with this amount no building could be constructed which would meet the need. An all-purpose building, to use in connection with the pool in summer and for every other kind of recreation imaginable in winter and summer, was required; nothing else would suffice. The rounded ceiling had to be clear of obstacles for basketball, the lights and finish had to be adaptable for parties, musicals and entertainments as well as sports. The kitchen, the handcraft room, the stage, the shower and the basement must all be suitable for a multiplicity of uses. The city engineers were given many a headache but in the end a plan was drawn up.

Just then the NYA came along looking for a project. But \$17,000 was not enough even with their help. However, the Rosenberg Foundation came to the rescue with \$7,000 and the building was started. These funds ran out when the end was in sight, but \$3,000 more was donated by the Rosenberg Foundation, and with small amounts from other sources the building was finished. The total cost was close to \$50,000.

The interchangeable uses of both grounds and building make this small block recreation area useful the year round. The baseball field used for children in the mornings during the summer, at 5 P. M. becomes the twilight league ball field for young men. On the same day it may prove the ideal setting for three night-lighted softball games before bleachers filled with entire families of every nationality. The same is true of the recreation building, where, during the day, handcraft, quiet games, sewing classes, badminton, volleyball, parties, basketball and entertainments are enjoyed in the morning and afternoon by children or grownups; at night, three basketball games, participated in perhaps by young men whose parents came from six different countries, may be played. The crowd that fills the bleachers may have originally come from the four corners of the earth.

Many more stories could be written about the play opportunities provided under the leadership of the Recreation Department of Fresno, California, which has received fourteen gifts or bequests from interested citizens who have wanted their possessions to count for the happiness of others.

Community Youth Centers in Manitoba, Canada

IN 1939 THE PROVINCE of Manitoba, Canada, initiated twelve Community Youth Centers under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training plan. Thirty selected young people were brought to Winnipeg and given a five weeks' course of training in physical education, public speaking, drama, and handcrafts. These young people returned to their communities and, with the help of experienced workers, organized youth centers.

It soon became apparent that the success of the project would depend on leadership, and in July, 1939, the Gimli Leadership Camp was established. At this camp 136 leaders were trained in 1939, and these leaders became the nucleus around which the centers for 1939-1940 were set up. During this period fifty-four centers were in operation throughout the province. In the summer of 1940 a second session of the camp was held, with approximately 140 leaders in training.

The centers are administered under the Commission for the Employment of Single Men and Youth Training, and are operated directly under the Department of Education. The local community in which a center is established provides a central committee, which usually has a subcommittee for citizenship training. The local committee is responsible for the rent, light, and heat of the building in which a center operates and for raising funds for equipment. The committee assists and supports the local leader who must meet specified requirements before he can serve. The Department of Education supplies supervision, pays the salary of the leaders, sets up courses, provides source material for courses, and assists with equipment cost.

The citizenship work at the centers includes instruction in public speaking and drama, as well as talks on citizenship subjects by local groups.

The youth center program was prefaced by a study of the recreational activities and needs of the city of Winnipeg primarily in relation to the program for young men and women from sixteen to thirty years of age. The report of findings has been published by the Department of Education, Winnipeg, Canada, under the title, "Survey of Recreational Activities and Leisure-Time Use in the City of Winnipeg, 1940." The study was directed by Emanuel Berlatsky.

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Building and Flying Model Airplanes

An Air Youth Handbook. Published for Air Youth of America. D. Appleton-Century Company, New York.

THIS BOOK, a companion piece of Model Airplane Contests, describes in detail every step in both the building and flying of model airplanes, and offers up-to-date material presented by experts with years of experience in building and flying model airplanes. A valuable feature is the inclusion of plans for the building of five models developed by the Air Youth of America.

American Youth An Enforced Reconnaissance

Edited by Thacher Winslow and Frank P. Davidson. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. \$2.50.

THE EDITORS of this volume asked a number of leaders in academic, professional, and public life to write down what seem to them to be important considerations in a review of youth's relation to society in the broadest sense, for the problems of today's young men and women, as the editors point out, "constitute an index to the times, and the courage with which we face them must serve as a test of the survival power of our civilization." Among the contributors are Aubrey Williams and Mary Hayes of the National Youth Administration, Kenneth Holland of the American Youth Commission, George S. Pettee and Robert Ulich of Harvard University, and Fritz M. Marx of Queens College. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has contributed the foreword.

Liability for School Accidents

A Manual for Educational Administrators and Teachers. By Harry N. Rosenfield. Harper and Brothers, New York. \$2.00.

While this book has been written to provide authoritative legal guidance which will protect educators from needless worry concerning their responsibility for the safety of students, it will also be helpful to recreation workers who face similar problems. Especially pertinent to the recreation profession is the chapter, "Gymnasium, Playground, and Athletic Activities." Not only does this guide explain legal implications of negligence and cover the principles of liability, but it also discusses specific problems of school administration which will tend to prevent scores of accidents that now occur.

Camp Fire Tonight!

By Richard James Hurley. The Peak Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan. \$1.00.

This is "a handbook and a how-book" of storytelling methods and material intended for the individual who likes to tell stories and wants to tell better ones and tell them more expertly. Written in popular style, it is an interesting book not only for the individual who would tell stories, but for all who enjoy them. A comprehensive bibliography is included.

"Good Morning"

By Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford. Dearborn Publishing Company, Dearborn, Michigan. \$50.

Recreation workers will welcome the revised edition of "Good Morning," the book of music, calls, and directions for old time dancing as revived by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford and arranged by Benjamin B. Lovett. Material has been drawn from authentic sources and this, combined with Mr. Lovett's many years of experience and the effort he has made to preserve all that is characteristic and traditional, will make the book invaluable at a time when old American dances are sweeping the country. More than forty dances are described with clear, detailed directions, and music is given for each.

Model Boat Building

Edited by F. J. Camm. Chemical Publishing Company, New York. \$1.50.

THERE ARE 151 ILLUSTRATIONS and plans in this book which covers the whole ground of constructional methods. Designs are given for a model sloop, a schooner yacht, a model of John Cabot's ship and of a Tudor ship, a petrol engine hydroplane, and other models.

The Youth of New York City

By Nettie Pauline McGill and Ellen Nathalie Matthews. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50.

NEARLY 10,000 YOUNG PEOPLE in New York City between sixteen and twenty-four years of age representing every race, color, creed, nationality and the extremes of wealth and destitution, were interviewed on such questions as their family background, education, recreation, employment, and social life. The results of this study have been analyzed in this book with special reference to employment. The study points out the great need for additional recreation facilities and the opportunity for sports and play. "Youth needs an education that takes leisure seriously," states the report. "In a changing world it needs schools that are leisure-conscious. It needs an education that makes the wholehearted enjoyment of life one of its goals. Perhaps more than anything else, youth needs to have kept before the community the fact that almost all wholesome and constructive recreation is now out of reach of all except a few."

Rhythm and Games

By Mrs. Fannie Steve. Wisconsin State Stations, Madison, Wisconsin. \$.10.

THE WISCONSIN STATE STATIONS have issued this booklet on music and games which has been prepared by Mrs. Steve to supplement her weekly broadcast for primary grades of the Wisconsin School of the Air. Mrs. Steve suggests that the games and tunes she has broadcast might be carried over into the gymnasium and playtime periods. Most of the music was written by Mrs. Steve herself.

Your Health Dramatized.

By Dr. W. W. Bauer and Leslie Edgley. E. P. Dutton and Co., New York City. \$2.25.

Thirty-two selected health plays adapted from the scripts of the Radio Health Dramatizations broadcasts during 1937-38 by the American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company especially for senior and junior high schools. They meet the need for short classroom or assembly programs. May be used as actual or simulated broadcasts, as stage plays, informal classroom plays, or dramatic readings. They cover a variety of health subjects. Some of the titles are Playing for Fun, Seeing and Hearing Well, It Takes All Good Foods, Sneezes and Sniffles, The Health Check-Up, Vacation Plays and Misplays, etc.

Wild Life Development of Recreational Lakes.

National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

A recent bulletin published by the National Park Service is concerned mainly with the development of new artificial lakes. It also contains suggestions which are applicable to existing natural or artificial lakes. The bulletin points out that since local conditions vary widely, wild life development must be shaped to meet these conditions. General principles are accordingly indicated rather than specific treatment. Park and recreation authorities who are responsible for the development of water areas will find many practical suggestions in the bulletin.

The Merry Skibook.

Franziska. Transatlantic Arts, New York. \$1.90. Don't make the mistake of turning to this book for information on the techniques of skiing. There are plenty of books on this subject. In the pages of this delightful collection of caricatures-and they are in color-you will recognize some of your friends who never miss the ski train. "The book is made like an accordion, and from its folds one almost hears the gay yodel of ski folk in the mountains."

All who ski or who have watched the antics of friends will find this a most intriguing and novel book.

The Play's the Thing. How to Appreciate and Enjoy the Drama.

By Joseph Mersand, Ph. D. Number Five. The Modern Drama Chapbooks, New York. \$.25.

Dr. Mersand, instructor in English, Boys' High School, Brooklyn, New York, gives us in this book three essays on the art of enjoying the drama: "The Meaning of the Appreciation of Drama"; "How to Know the Best Plays"; and "What Makes Great Dramas Great." They are all three helpful aids to an appreciation of drama.

Stories for Parents.

By Jean Schick Grossman. Summer Play Schools Association, 1841 Broadway, New York. \$.05 each; series of four, \$.10.

In 1938 the Summer Play Schools Committee of the Child Study Association issued a series of attractive pamphlets which discussed some of the problems which arise in child training. The Committee, now known as the Summer Play Schools Association, now offers a new series having to do with Learning to Use Money; Keeping Healthy; No Two Children Are Alike; and Children's Quarrels. The general plan followed in all the pamphlets is to state the situation, present a number of questions which the particular problem presents, and offer suggestions under the heading "Some Things to Think About." The leaflets are all attractively illustrated.

Where Did Your Garden Grow?

By Jannette May Lucas. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$2.00.

Sometimes we say that the wind blows from the four

corners of the globe. The wind blowing over a garden does, for often the flowers in one bed come from all parts of the world. In this unusually attractive book the author tells of the travels of a number of flowerstulips, lilies, daffodils, zinnias, and many others—from China, Persia, Turkey, Africa, South America, and other countries. There are beautiful colored maps and drawings by Helene Carter illustrating their original habitat and their travels. This is a charming book for flower

Louisiana French Folk Songs.

By Irene Therese Whitfield. Louisiana State Uni-

versity Press, University, Louisiana. \$3.00. In this book Miss Whitfield has made a contribution to the folk lore of America. The words are given in the patois of Creole French, a mixture of Old French and English, with bits of other languages thrown in for good measure. The melody and symbols are given in phonetic alphabet. In addition to the folk songs, the author has included a few songs which are not strictly folk songs but which have been sung, hummed, or whistled so long a time that they have developed variations in words and melody. An interesting feature of the collection is the discussion presented before each group of songs of the characteristic as demonstrated by the members of that

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For Easter

Easter Carols per 100, \$.80; per 1,000 (Words of six favorite old Easter carols)	, \$8.00
Stories of the Easter Carols	.10
Program Suggestions for Easter	
Easter Egg Hunts	.05
A Few Suggestions for Easter	.10

National Recreation Association

315 Fourth Avenue

New York City

What Type of Physical Fitness?

"THE type of physical fitness that we need is a complex compound of physical and spiritual elements. For man refuses to be divided into separate compartments. Muscles, organs, nervous system and mind constitute a functional wholeness. They are not isolated units. The strength, skill, speed, and endurance of the body depend on the character as well as on the quantity and quality of the blood circulating through the muscles.

"There has perhaps never been a moment so opportune for human progress. Western civilization is confronted with a truly gigantic task. At this dawn of a momentous age, would it not be wise to start on a new enterprise and to develop in this country men of greater physical and spiritual value than have lived at any other time in the history of the world?" Alexis Carrel, M.D., in an address before the New York State Health and Physical Education Convention.

